Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

State Council Examines Officers' Death Sentences

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[Council of State meeting chaired by President Fidel Castro in Havana on 9 July to examine the death sentence handed down by a special military tribunal for General Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez and three other Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry officers—recorded]

[Text] [Fidel Castro] Since we have a quorum, we declare this session open.

Comrades, in accordance with the provisions established by Article (?483) of the law on military penal proceedings, the Cuban Council of State will examine the sentence handed down by the special Cuban court-martial on 7 July for case No 1 of 1989. The sentence was handed down as punishment for the following crimes: carrying out hostile actions against foreign states, trafficking in toxic drugs, and abuse of authority.

Cuban citizens Arnaldo Tomas Ochoa Sanchez, Jorge Martinez Valdez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, and Amado Bruno Padron Trujillo were sentenced to death by a firing squad.

Lawyers appointed by the government filed appeals before the Military Affairs Court of the Cuban Supreme People's Tribunal because of that sentence. Through ruling No 14, discussed and issued between 6 and 8 July, the Military Affairs Court of the Cuban Supreme People's Tribunal rejected the aforementioned appeal.

It is our duty to listen to the opinion of each and every one of the members of this council present here to determine whether the Council of State will confirm the sentence pronounced by the special court-martial or whether it will decide to commute the death sentence by firing squad of all or some of the defendants sentenced to death to a sentence of 30 years in prison.

Comrade secretary will now call the names of the Council of State members for them to give their opinions and cast their votes.

[Jose Miyar, Minister-Secretary of the Council of State] Comrade Armando Acosta has the floor.

[Acosta] Comrade Fidel, comrade members of the Council of State: We have followed the trial proceedings closely, and we never had the slightest doubt regarding the gravity of the events that were described before the tribunal. We never doubted that the only alternative for the Cuban Revolution was to sentence these men to death by firing squad.

When Comrade Raul Castro [second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] delivered his first speech, I was in Olguin Province touring 10 municipalities there. Even then, we saw the angry masses and people demanding severe penalties for those who had committed such serious crimes.

Over the past few days, we have been listening to the people in our organization, and in the various cadres, zones, and municipalities. They all call for the carrying out of the death penalty by firing squad pronounced against these defendants. I am absolutely convinced that it is essential, fair, humane, and correct to carry out the death sentence by firing squad pronounced against the aforementioned defendants.

[Miyar] Comrade Severo Aguirre del Cristo.

[Aguirre] Comrade Council members: I am of the opinion that the death penalty imposed by the special military court should be applied to the following citizens: Arnaldo Tomas Ochoa Sanchez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, Jorge Martinez Valdez, and Amado Bruno Padron Trujillo. I believe that the State Council's final decision should be to carry out the death sentence.

The crimes committed by the group of criminals they led have been proved at the hearings held by the military honor court and the special military court. They committed grave criminal offenses against the fatherland, the Revolution's laws, and the Revolution itself. Those are errors that cannot be corrected with self-criticism or tearful lamentations. They have betrayed the Revolution, which gave them power to serve it with honesty and dignity. They mocked the Revolution, the people, and comrade Fidel's teachings. They respected no person or thing in this country. Their greed made them common criminals. They all became criminals against mankind.

[Miyar] Comrade Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera.

[Balaguer] Comrade Fidel, comrade State Council members: We would never have imagined having to express our opinions at the State Council regarding such a cruel, offensive, and painful act for any revolutionary man as this act of treason to the fatherland, the people, and Fidel.

We have always believed that our Revolution is so great—greater than ourselves—because it is in the people's minds, hearts, and actions, and because the people's morality, ethics, and human concepts based on Marxist- Leninist philosophy constitute its strongest defense. A legal process like this one has demonstrated responsibility before the people and the world, who have been able to follow day by day a detailed account of this crime and treason, leaving no doubts regarding the defendants guilt.

I believe that the court has acted with a great sense of justice and duty. I admire you and respect you.

During the past few days, as I heard the overwhelming evidence and confessions that categorically prove the crimes, what has been in my mind and has made my heart pound as a Cuban has been thinking what could have happened if this had not been discovered. Our borders would have practically been in the hands of drug traffickers, open to attacks from the enemy, whom we have held at bay for 30 years. What the enemy could not achieve in the Bay of Pigs with the uprising of bandits or with the attempts to kill Fidel and other leaders these individuals were offering the CIA on a silver platter. They endangered the Revolution's security. The Revolution's honor, dignity, prestige, and morality were questioned. They made the possibility of infiltration and attempts to kill Fidel feasible. The prestige and history of our defense institutions were at stake.

I also agree with what comrade prosecutor General Jaime Escalona said. Drug trafficking is inhumane. It is no different than the bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki or the use of chemical or biological weapons. It is even worse, because it leads to degradation and loss of man's most precious possession: his dignity. When I imagine children and adolescents trapped by drugs, I feel greater pain.

Any real revolutionary man, any honest person with human feelings, will agree with this exemplary punishment. Our Revolution, the essence of which was expressed in the court's decision and throughout the trial, has provided an example of firmness, morality, and intransigence in the face of immoral, inhumane, or treacherous actions. Even if we must lose portions of our lives—or our entire lives—we cannot permit the trampling on and violation of principles.

For this reason, I feel and believe that my conscience as a revolutionary man tells me that what motivated us to take up weapons behind Fidel to fight Batista, what encouraged us for 30 years, what made us stand firm before attacks and difficulties, today motivates us to consider the court's decision just and to support it. This sentence not only has the signatures of the members of the court, it also has the signature of our people expressed through their rejection and condemnation of treason and infamy.

I agree with the death sentence the tribunal has imposed on Arnaldo Ochoa, Tony De la Guardia, Amado Padron, and Jorge Martinez.

[Miyar] Comrade Senen Casas Regueiro.

[Casas] Comrade President, comrade members of the Council of State: In my opinion, the gravity of the crimes, which have been proved in the legal process conducted in this case; the consequences these crimes may have had for the security of our fatherland—in fact, they have harmed the prestige of our Revolution—are enough to give one an understanding of the scope of the treason committed by Ochoa, De la Guardia, and the rest of the criminals. These men have shown that they are capable of any criminal action to achieve their repulsive goals.

I believe the individual blame has been assigned by the tribunal. Regarding the death sentences, they are duly justified because of the high treason committed by these men. To summarize my opinion, I would say the justice of our Revolution should ensure the purity of our Revolution. In this case and to achieve this purity, we must confirm the death sentences imposed by the tribunal on citizens Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Jose [as heard] Martinez Valdes, Antonio de la Guardia Font, and Amado Padron Trujillo. I have finished.

[Miyar] Comrade Abelardo Colome Ibarra.

[Colome] Comrade commander in chief, comrades of the Council of State: I will try to be brief because I understand that the case we are dealing with has been the most openly debated case in the 30-odd years of our Revolution to keep our people and the international public well informed. This case has greatly aroused the people. Therefore, I think we are all fully aware of the problem. Because of the characteristics of our Revolution, the enemy has always organized campaigns and launched all sorts of slanders against the Revolution, beginning with the first [words indistinct] the revolutionary laws, our relations with socialist countries, the Bay of Pigs, the October crisis, and continuing with many other examples that would take too long to mention here. Such campaigns, however, have never had much importance.

Unfortunately, this group of common criminals allows one to say that, in this new campaign, and regarding this embarrassing scandal in which our fatherland and the Revolution are involved, the enemy is partly correct. I say partly because the enemy has always evilly distorted the information they give the world. This has harmed us. This has harmed all of us and all of our people. This has caused moral, political, and physical damage. These people have damaged the prestige this Revolution has earned through much effort and sacrifice over 30 years. They have also harmed the prestige of the country, its institutions, and particularly of FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and the MININT [Ministry of Interior].

During the few days I have been working at the MININT, I have been able to see the damage these people have inflicted on this institution and on the comrades who work there. I have also seen how much shame, bitterness, and sorrow we have had to endure over the past few weeks. We have seen how this group of irresponsible men ruined the efforts and sacrifices of thousands upon thousands of combatants over approximately 30 years. They have deeply hurt Fidel. They have caused him great harm and have made him suffer greatly. I believe this will forever affect his health because these men were not enemies. They were our own people, men with a history like Ochoa.

Again, I do not want to repeat what we already know. I completely agree with the basic arguments presented by my comrades at the court of honor. I agree with the sentence imposed by the military tribunal. I maintain that what these former comrades have done leaves us no alternative. The guilt of the defendants has been proven beyond doubt. I am convinced that, for the cases we are examining here today, the death penalty is actually the only just thing to do.

[Miyar] Comrade Pedro Chavez.

[Chavez] President of State Council Commander Fidel Castro and State Council Comrades: Over these past few days, we, like the rest of our people, have closely followed the development of this process. The process initially astonished us, but later it angered us. We have meditated on all the information we heard regarding the deplorable events that were disclosed during this process. We whole-heartedly agree with and support the court of honor's recommendations. We believe these recommendations are sound since they resulted from a process that reached the depths of our people's hearts and are an outstanding example of revolutionary justice and humanity. The process has greatly affected us, and we have all received a very educational lesson since the process reached every Cuban home through the national television network and through the extensive coverage given to it by all our media.

At the special military court, the state prosecutor totally and convincingly demonstrated the guilt of the defendants, and I agree with his conclusions and have no doubt that all the defendants deserve the most severe sentence for their shameful actions. We later saw in the sentence handed down by the special military court, which gave only the four most guilty defendants the death penalty, the Revolution's leniency. We have acknowledged our people's feelings about the case and they support these just and necessary, though painful, measures. The actions and behavior of each of these defendants conclusively demonstrated their high treason to the fatherland, the Revolution, the party, their comrades, the spotless and exemplary institutions they served, and Comrade Fidel, our commander in chief.

Furthermore, it has not gone unnoticed to any of us—including, at the end, the defendants themselves—the damage their actions could have caused our country and our Revolution if the enemy had uncovered these actions before we did and presented them to the world. They would have presented them as evidence that the Cuban Government was directly involved in these actions, and it would have been difficult to refute these accusations, although our government has repeatedly and firmly rejected these imperialist lies.

We and all our revolutionary people know very well that high treason is paid for with one's life. This process demonstrated, once again, the Revolution's strength and purity, and it is the example that we must pass on to future generations. It will show how a true Revolution is able to eliminate the mud and filth that can tarnish it and continue to advance with firm, determined steps. We know, because they are already doing so, that our enemies will distort and try to twist the significance of these exemplary measures. Never before has anybody applied such measures. It should also be clear to all of us that we will have to confront and deal with the confusion that will arise around this case and the questions that our true friends in Latin America, the Third World, and elsewhere will ask.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by the special military court, as it has had a strong and positive effect on us and our people as well. The court conscientiously applied and implemented our laws and each case was studied in detail. The prosecutor's role and his superb closing argument, as well as the role played by the defense, led to the irreversible sentence rendered by this court. The sentence was confirmed by the military affairs court of the Supreme People's Tribunal, which did not accept the appeal presented by the defense, as allowed by law. Thus, I reiterate that I agree with the court's sentence in every respect. As a member of this body, I have been called to state my position, and, as the comrades who have preceded me have done, will do so as follows: I do not believe that a commutation of the sentence—as set forth in the law—should be granted in this case.

This bitter process has taught us a lesson: that we have an urgent need to enhance our revolutionary vigilance and strengthen our control mechanisms, which must always be accompanied by our trust in men who are truly revolutionary. We are convinced that, once again, under the party's administration and you, Comrade Fidel, we will convert, as we are already doing, this setback into a victory and that the Revolution will come out stronger than ever from this ordeal to project the Cuban example to the world. I have finished.

[Miyar] Comrade Mercedes Diaz Herrera.

[Diaz Herrera] Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, State Council comrades: We agree that Citizens Arnaldo Tomas Ochoa Sanchez, Jorge Martinez Valdes, Antonio de la Guardia Font, and Amado Bruno Padron Trujillo should be given the death penalty for the serious crimes they have committed, which have placed our fatherland in a dangerous and difficult position and damaged the prestige of our socialist Revolution.

This group did not hesitate to contact foreign drug traffickers, without considering for one moment how this might affect our country. As a member of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, I am quite satisfied with the actions of the tribunals that have participated in this case and with the work carried out by the comrade prosecutor, who at all times has imparted true justice. As deputy of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], I convey the feelings of

our people who believe that citizen Ochoa, De la Guardia, and their group must pay for this treason with the sentence imposed by our revolutionary tribunal, which carefully analyzed each case and imposed sanctions according to what is established. I do not want to end my brief participation without telling our commander in chief and those present that what occurred among this small group of officers does not prevent our people from continuing to have faith in you, commander, in our party, in our youth, in our women, and in all of those who are willing to continue on the right path. I have concluded.

[Miyar] Comrade Vilma Espin.

[Espin] Comrades of the Council of State: It is of the utmost gravity that precisely while holding his high post with responsibility to ensure fulfillment of the rules and regulations of conduct, the principles that are the basis of social balance, to maintain order and discipline, that he defrauded the confidence placed in him by his superiors, his people, in acts of supreme dishonesty; that he has been capable of violating such rules and regulations, all principles, and acted as a vulgar criminal, lying, deceiving, stealing, and falling prey to corruption, and moral debasement; the fact that with incredible insensitivity he engaged in such lowdown actions at a time when our troops, his troops, were waging decisive battles amid great sacrifices, showing the true courage of the sons of this country, who with blood and fire, won fundamental victories; that, while being a general of our glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces, to which he belonged, with colossal irresponsibility in his adventurous and corrupt conduct, he endangered the country's security by carrying out activities that could undermine the credibility of Cuba and its Revolution, have won Cuba....[changes thought] which Cuba and its Revolution have won by its position based on solid moral principles. The lurking enemy waited for the moment to show the world that Cuba did participate in drug trafficking and that Fidel lied when he repeatedly denied it. Fidel's word is always true, as is the policy of our party, our Revolution. It is a cornerstone in the moral structure that makes us strong both here and abroad.

In a situation such as this one, what would the U.S. Government have been capable of doing, in addition to denying what we said. The swift, acute, dynamic, effective action directed by Fidel once again saved the Revolution. The danger to which Ochoa and the others implicated in the shameful drug trafficking activities have exposed the country do not permit any other name. It has been a crime of high treason, as are each of the other aspects of the conduct of Arnaldo Ochoa to which I have referred.

It is very painful that the person to whom we are referring, who has been a courageous fighter who rose up from the rebel army, who had a long and heroic revolutionary background, who therefore was honored with the highest decorations, who was loved and admired by our people, by all of us, because of his conduct has left us no other alternative. He leaves us with the obligation to apply the maximum penalty. Regarding the other defendants, who also took advantage of the confidence placed in them, of the immunity granted by the nature of their work, and the channels available for this, absolutely violating professional ethics and the fundamental duty of safeguarding the security of our coasts and skies, they acted as vilely as vulgar criminals. They were supposed to defend and protect us from such criminals and from the imperialist enemy to whom they opened the doors.

I believe the sentence pronounced by the special court-martial must be confirmed. The clarity of the entire judicial proceeding and the dignity with which all the sessions of the impeccable honor tribunal were conducted are an example of respectful, humane treatment and of careful and fair actions. Let the sentence be confirmed and carried out. No one can doubt—today or ever—that above all a revolutionary must be an honest and worthy person, someone who abides by the law.

[Miyar] Comrade Jose Ramon Fernandez has the floor.

[Fernandez] Comrade Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Council of State, comrade members of the Council of State: I wish to expressly state my position on this case.

The actions carried out by the convicted citizens we are talking about here are obviously unacceptable because they could have jeopardized the prestige and security of the Cuban Revolution through their repulsive drug trafficking activities. Those citizens reached the lowest levels of morality. The said citizens conducted various drug trafficking operations and were fully aware of what they were doing. To carry out those activities, they took advantage of the authority, power, and means the Cuban state had granted them because of their respective ranks, positions, and functions.

Some of those traitors betrayed the strong faith the Revolution had in them through their business dealings, trading activities, and the profits they obtained from the goods and needs of a fraternal nation at war. They irresponsibly neglected their duties. Their actions go against the deeply rooted internationalist principles of our country, which have been proven by our self-sacrificing people, who have contributed so many heroic combatants. Such actions are an offense to our martyrs. They also harm the feelings of those martyrs' widows, children, parents, relatives, and comrades.

In addition to the aforementioned crimes, those citizens carried out hostile actions against foreign states, conducted many operations and actions in Cuba to obtain personal benefits—for which they violated the law—and became involved with drug traffickers in other countries.

Those activities, which were vigorously and unanimously rejected, are a betrayal of the fatherland, of Fidel Castro, and of the Revolution and its highest principles, which are the pride of the Cuban people and the firm basis of their behavior.

Undoubtedly, those citizens not only jeopardized our people's safety, prestige, and honor, but also Cuba's credibility, which could have affected our friends, trade relations, tourism, and even the image of Comrade Fidel himself, the symbol of our Revolution.

Similarly, with their despicable activities, those citizens fostered the enemy's slanders and infamy, as well as the slanders of international press agencies and foreign officials, who instead of supporting and praising this fair action [the death sentence], which benefits their own peoples and contributes toward preventing drugs from increasingly becoming the scourge of humanity, take advantage of the situation and attribute the origin of the crimes to petty causes or nonexistent conflicts within our Armed Forces, government, and party.

More than a government office, the MC Department was a true mafia that carried out the lowest deeds we had ever heard of, in which fiction and nonfiction become one.

Comrades of the Council of State, the decision we adopt must be an expression of the firmness of the Cuban Revolution. Our decision must be an unbreakable barrier to prevent degradation and other forms of despicable behavior, especially in officials and public authorities.

For that reason, I believe the sentence pronounced against the convicted citizens—who are vulgar criminals, ungrateful children of the fatherland, and men who failed to maintain our Revolution's honor and dignity—must be confirmed as an effective example of punishment.

My opinion stems from my firmest conviction that the Cuban authorities and tribunals acted within the law, with a high humanitarian spirit, and in strict observance of the standards that regulate the administration of justice.

I support the sentence, because I believe it is fair. I also believe the sentence will contribute to the struggle against drug trafficking—the scourge of humanity—will help us save the lives of thousands of children, youths, women, and men, and will help us avoid the suffering of millions of human beings.

The Cuban Revolution sustained a harsh blow, but thanks to the way they acted, thanks to the measures adopted, and the reaction of the people, who understood the importance of these actions perfectly well, it will come out stronger and it will march clean and triumphant along the path of the great work carried out by our worthy, virtuous, self-sacrificing, strong, firm, and unyielding people.

Our integrity, honor, and truthfulness are the best weapons we have to defend against the enemy. Under the leadership of Fidel, the strength of the Revolution will undoubtedly wash off the stain. I reiterate my opinion that the Council of State must confirm the death sentence pronounced against Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, Amado Padron Trujillo, and Jorge Martinez Valdez. I have finished.

[Miyar] Comrade Guillermo Garcia Frias.

[Garcia Frias] Comrade President, comrades of the Council of State: The events that have gathered us here today are of extreme importance for the Revolution. Without a doubt, all of us present here assume a historic responsibility. It is to accept or reject, according to our laws, the death sentence handed down against four citizens, who by their actions have betrayed the tradition of noble and genuine struggle of our people and, at the same time, have greatly endangered the destiny of the country with the crimes, as validated by the special military tribunal, with the hostile acts against foreign states, trafficking of toxic drugs, and abuse of their post. In the 21 June extraordinary plenum, when the opinion of each one of the members was requested, I stated: We will not speak of the indignation of the immediate moment or of personal insults. We must start off on the principle: How does the Revolution stand to gain more—by executing the defendants by firing squad or not? I expressed myself by saying that I believed it stood to gain more by not executing the defendants. This was my sincere expression and I believed so honestly at that time. When comrade Raul spoke and referred to the very severe charges, I changed my mind. When the commander in chief made the summation, my initial opinion vanished. I then began to see each one of the views presented at the hearing where defendants and witnesses described such a shameful process, filling each one of us with shame. It was far beyond the imagination of a revolutionary man. We saw how two groups, starting from different places, met at the same point to fight over the drug trafficking leadership. They were united by an unprecedented ideological distortion, where the fundamental premise was money, personal gain, and power. They forgot one of the principles of our party platform which states: Cuba is a developing country that is building the material and technical basis of socialism and is constantly perfecting its sociopolitical life, basing itself on the principle that the Revolution will exist and will survive always, not only because of its material economic strength or its force but, above all, because of its morale, end of quote. After this analysis, we asked the following question: What would have occurred if this had happened without the physical presence of our commander in chief and comrade Raul? I have still not answered this question, because of its unforeseeable consequences. All of our people have had access to detailed information on the development of the hearings and each one of us has had the opportunity to make a profound, thoughtful evaluation of such shameful acts. This has constituted an exemplary lesson and signifies a

victory of our Revolution. For me it has been like an injection of oxygen to the revolutionary bloodline that aroused all the neurons that were asleep. The process we have witnessed has been characterized by absolute respect for legality and by utmost consideration of the defendants' human rights. These are the same rights that our enemies have been so intent on denying our country. Both the defendants and defense counsels have made this very clear. This illustrates once more the greatness of our Revolution.

I believe that this historic process has served, as never before, as an example for Cuban revolutionaries and for the entire world. I believe the Revolution has now sprouted new and stronger roots that ensure it a long life. The experience we have gained from this process shows the need for the state's central administration organizations to intensify the control of and demands upon the actions of their cadres. Incidents such as those we are facing today originate with a lack of controls, a lack of demands, buddyism, the desire to live a soft, cushy life, and in certain cases, trusting too much in others. Unfortunately, some officers have fallen into these ways. Our state must intensify its actions against such things so that in the future, we will not have to face similar situations.

Comrades: The commitment made with the blood spilled by thousands of Cubans defending their Revolution, or unselfishly struggling for the happiness of other peoples of the world, is sacred. The decision we must make today will be very significant for the future and the history of the Revolution. We, members of the Council of State, fully aware of the high responsibility the people have bestowed upon us, cannot have a moment of hesitation when defending the sacred ideals of our people. Therefore, I recommend the Council of State unanimously approve the sentence of death, by execution, issued by the Special Military Tribunal against four of those convicted: Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Jorge Martinez Valdes, Antonio de la Guardia Font, and Amado Bruno Padron Trujillo. Finally, comrades, I do not want to end my statement before presenting a personal reflection to you. I believe that, by this exemplary process, all revolutionaries from now on will make a self-examination and analysis of their actions and conduct. As for myself, I hereby want to confirm at this meeting my loyalty to the principles of honesty which the Revolution has taught us and to the commitments we have with our people, the fatherland, and Fidel.

[Miyar] Comrade Armando Hart.

[Armando Enrique Hart Davalos] Comrade President, comrade members of the Council of State: With sorrow, I want to say that since I became aware of the magnitude of the events, I have never doubted that the death penalty was the unavoidable end for some of the [words indistinct]. In many states around the world, including Cuba, crimes considered grave are sanctioned with the death penalty. For the customs and juridical tradition of many countries, this is perfectly normal. The pertinent tribunals in this case have said that it corresponds to enforcing this sentence. I have asked myself: What is the moral difference between the cases of those who have now been sentenced and the cases of common criminals in various countries, including our own, who are sentenced to death? The difference is that the latter have committed their crimes on their own, and the men sanctioned by the military tribunal committed their crimes supported by the authority and confidence society bestowed upon them, thus hurting the fatherland with highest treason. This circumstance makes it even worse.

In their demagoguery, the enemies cynically compared the decision by our tribunals with crimes committed in certain historic times in other countries supported by state power. The situation is completely contrary. We are now imposing the death penalty on those who used state authority in committing criminal actions. Cuba's political history cannot accept such conduct. The centenary generation [those who were born between the birth of Jose Marti in 1853 and the attack on the Moncada Barracks in 1953] was forged by fighting this kind of criminal. By carrying out the sentence, we are clearly upholding these principles for future generations.

As it is obvious, this is a group decision. Those who claim otherwise from abroad are slandering us and know nothing about the Revolution. Men and women who feel shame and who are meeting here are fully assuming responsibility and making their own decisions. I agree that the final decision should be made based on the best political criteria. However, what is our policy? I believe it should be a policy based on the ethical and revolutionary tradition of Cuban society. We must strengthen our ideologic and moral principles. We must attain this through essential fundamentals. The greatest severity must be imposed through a humane, just, balanced, flexible, and broad procedure.

This is the way these proceedings have been carried out and now that we have reached the end, we cannot act in any other way but in adherence with it. Such a decision will strengthen our Revolution because imperialism's only allies and influence in our country are the germs of corruption.

There is no possibility that a political or ideological program, consistent with our society and our history, could confront our socialist Revolution. There is no, nor can there be any, counterrevolutionary program that responds to treason or to changes in the history of the country. The only possible program is ours. The enemies of the Revolution's program are the antinational modern annexationists. At the domestic level, and as confirmed in the case we now study, imperialism can only support and promote the germs of corruption, disassociation, division, and moral relaxation. The Revolution's moral shield, ideological authority, and consistent revolutionary thought combine the necessary strengths to continue to challenge the people and confront the present difficulties and, more importantly, those we will face tomorrow.

We can only understand this group's criminal actions if they are based on their desire to bring about the defeat of the Cuban Revolution or, at least, that they believed that Revolution's main principles would be progressively weakened. The group's actions reached the point of high treason and must be sanctioned with capital punishment. This, as I see it, is a political necessity; it is a hard decision, but there is nothing harsher than justice. We have had an exemplary legal process that was preceded by an Honor Tribunal, comprised of the comrades-in-arms of the most important of the defendants. Tomorrow, the cancellation of our penal codes could be proposed if we do not apply the death penalty at this time. I do not know of any other cases that merit the death penalty more than those presently before us. I do not know of a crime that is more serious than theirs. The Constitution states that treason to the fatherland is the most serious of crimes and whoever incurs such a crime is subject to the most severe sanctions.

These men, supported by their positions, shamelessly established contacts with the Medellin Cartel and clashed with the most important of Cuban ethical values. The defendants, and we say this with sadness, hypocritically waved the banners of the Revolution and used its strength, but they incubated inside themselves the germ of people like [former Cuban President Fulgencio Batista's administration members] Rolando Masferrer, Esteban Ventura, and Rios Chaviano, the men most hated by our people since they gained political awareness. We did not make a revolution—that for more than 35 years has been carried forward in a historic struggle—for those who tarnish its highest symbols and cut its deepest roots not to be sanctioned with death.

It has been beneficial, as in the past, to reflect on the international aspect of this case. The world respects and listens to us. We have attained an important position in the international sphere because we have been consistent with our principles. Our enemies are going to or have already started to throw a barrage of lies against us and whatever decision we make, be it one or the other. The decision we make is going to make our enemies, even our most powerful ones, get to know us better and understand the type of persons they are fighting. We are not sanctioning those who presented a political program that was different from ours, but those who committed crimes that are completely immoral and that injure the feelings of all honest men, regardless of the political program they defend. The crimes committed by these men undermined the ethical fiber of Latin American and modern society in general. This fiber is essential to international order. The drug Mafia's powerful tentacles are corrupting Latin America's open societies and making it difficult for the necessary changes in the democratic process to take place. The drama can best be seen in Colombia where strong drug traffickers have linked their interests to those of the Armed Forces and created a situation that is socially unsoluble in which terrorism is rampant and the government's own authority has been rendered impotent.

The crime committed, harbored by the authority and merits granted by the Revolution, is one of the most dramatic and sorrowful problems of our history. It does not deserve to be pardoned by the revolutionary state. Comrades who assassinated Bishop in Grenada were also criminals for other reasons, and look at what happened to them. Criminals are those who have committed or who engage in actions of that nature in the future. We must establish these principles in the political culture of our America. Cuban society needs to strengthen and deepen a scale of ethical values. The definitive victory of these values are demanded, above all, for the future, when the principal figures with historic authority are no longer alive. By that time, the moral, ideological, and political principles will be even more necessary to guarantee the unity of our people. We must bequeath a scale of values, expressed in a moral tradition, which is what we have maintained thus far. Every penal law covers an ethical principle. The law in general is the first sign of ethics in a society. The violation of the law is the violation of certain social and moral principles. Society has penal sanctions for the violation of those ethical principles. If these principles are not respected, they cease to exist. What ethical, moral principle lies behind these crimes? Deep down, there is a transgression of the moral tradition bequeathed to us by Varela, Cespedes, Agramonte, Maceo, Gomez, Marti, and Mella, which prevailed until our days with Fidel. There is deep immorality that is present in the facts when we shockingly learned one day that a Cuban officer went to meet with one of the Medellin Cartel chiefs. What respect can the Cuban Revolution have before the best of the Colombian people, who are suffering the horrors of the organized mafia, if we do not condemn these facts with capital punishment? Our humanitarianism must be toward the people who are suffering the criminal plight of the drug traffickers. Comrades, we are forging the most difficult and the most free and democratic society that has ever been known. We are doing so at the doors of the most powerful empire that has ever existed, amid an economic crisis that the world capitalist system has turned into an ever-increasing exploitation of underdeveloped regions. Our only alternative is to increase our demands, to strengthen our moral standards. The first orientation of social morals comes by way of fulfilling the laws. This same matter has concluded with a legal process. We must start from there. The ethical formation of society is not a simple problem of a legal and political framework. It covers pedagogic and cultural aspects, in which the family, school, and political and social institutions play a decisive role. We must direct ourselves in that direction, stressing the role of the law, the family, the school, the political and social organizations, information, and culture on the whole. Lastly, Comrade Fidel, with the infinite admiration of all, I want to salute you, our commander in chief, Army General Raul Castro, our glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces, and its generals. Once again, during these days you made us relive the immortal spirit of the Sierra Maestra. It appeared, and so I felt when the military honor tribunal was in session, that at this singular moment, Cuba had to

go to the source of its own history, of its own morals, to the deepest roots of the Cuban Revolution to resolve such a complicated problem as the one with which we have been tasked. It is necessary to think how our problems of today and of any other nature are also resolved by returning to the moral and historic course of the revolutionary fighters of the Sierra Maestra and to the even deeper essence of the ethics of Marti and you, Comrade Fidel. I have concluded.

[Miyar] Comrade Carlos Lage.

[Lage] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, comrade members of the Council of State: I reflected for many hours prior to this moment, aware of the great responsibility I now assume before the people and my conscience. Without any hesitation I give my vote in favor of the decision reached by the Special Military Court, fully convinced that the death sentence must be carried out in the cases mentioned. It is a just decision, in accordance with the Revolution's morality.

No one likes to recommend the maximum penalty, not even in cases like this one, when it is entirely just and inevitable. This is always a painful situation. I am the kind of person who is moved by sincere and courageous repentance, which some of them sometimes showed. During these days I have thought of the tragedy that has fallen over their relatives and friends.

However, reason should always prevail over emotions. When the Revolution and justice are at stake, there is no room for vacilation. If we are faithful to our people, who have reacted with indignation and maturity; if we want to guarantee and increase confidence in the Revolution; if we do not want to undermine our defense; if we think about the future and the certainty we must have that such actions will not reoccur; we must act in absolute agreement with our principles. The crime of drug trafficking is condenmed internationally. However, in the case of a open revolutionary process as ours, it is even much more intolerable. I have tried to imagine a greater offense against the homeland, but I cannot. It would have been terrible if the Revolution had not caught this sordid plot in time to uncover and clarify it.

The authority of the MININT, one of the Revolution's most prestigious institutions, has deteriorated. We all felt indignation when we learned that FAR officers turned their backs on their important responsibilities at times when our internationalist fighters participated in heroic battles in southern Angola under the command of real generals, of the FAR General Staff, and of our commander in chief. Many comrades shared, and we could all imagine Fidel's sleepless nights those days worried about the fate of each of our soldiers who risked their lives away from their homeland defending a noble cause.

However, in the midst of setbacks like this, there are facts that strengthen us. It has been demonstrated once again that no one in Cuba who commits a crime—no matter how high his position or merits—will go unpunished. Simply put, in Cuba no one is above the law. It has been demonstrated to the world that if to punish the culprits and maintain the purity of the Revolution, we must admit our our faults, we will not hesitate to disclose them. That conduct, which has been demonstrated time after time since the Moncada attack up to today, is based on the example set by Comrade Fidel, who has taught us to face adversities with courage and with the truth. The Revolution has never lied, and never will. All of us on this island and any honest man on Earth knows that.

In judging these cases, we have acted with the fairness that characterizes our justice. The defendants have been treated with respect and enjoyed all the guarantees. They have admitted their guilt, which was demonstrated with enormous evidence and overwhelming testimony. The calumnies that some may try to invent will be useless. The Revolution's moral strength and the credibility before the world of the nation's highest authorities have clearly emerged from this process. We will profit from the past weeks' experience. Have we not turned our setbacks into victories during these 30 years?

It is true that our vigilance and revolutionary discipline failed, and that men, forgetting their ranks and positions, abandoned their people. It is also true that more controls and discipline should be exercised on those of us who have leading positions. We are on that path, particularly since Fidel called for a process of rectification, and I am sure that now we will advance more quickly, as many consciences have been shaken. We will never lose faith in men, but the necessary measures will be adopted and each revolutionary man must draw his own conclusions.

Work should play a dominant role in our lives, time, and thoughts. No one should abuse his authority, and everyone should clearly know what his responsibilities are. Being a leader should always be considered an aggravating factor when evaluating and punishing errors. Being efficient and loyal in performing one's duties is not enough—one must earn respect in all aspects of life. Honesty is an indispensable requirement for revolutionary cadres.

Our relatives are not only our loved ones but also a reflection of ourselves, and they should be part of the restrictions we impose on ourselves. Our children should be distinguished by their revolutionary conduct; modesty should guide all our actions, and we should never forget that the Revolution's greatest hero is always the people's humble and loyal worker.

I reiterate my opinion that the sentence passed by the military court-martial must be carried out. Let us erase this outrage, let us turn this shameful page in our history, and let us be proud of our clean and pure Revolution.

[Miyar] Comrade Orlando Lugo Fonte.

[Lugo] President of the Council of State, comrades of the Council of State: I believe it is not necessary to go over the details of the case we are discussing today, because all of us and our entire people have been provided with ample information from the very beginning of the trial.

The many reports I received provided me with information about the shameful, cowardly behavior of this group of traitors. Those who had the opportunity to participate in, hear, or read about the sessions of the military honor tribunal and of the special court-martial realized that these have been the cleanest and most exemplary proceedings ever conducted in any country. No details were hidden from the people. Comrades, I am sure a trial such as this one can only be held by a Revolution like ours.

All that said, I have sufficient facts to formulate an opinion as a member of the Cuban Council of State.

Comrades of the Council of State, I would like to stress another aspect. Because of the nature of my work, thanks to which I am in close contact with our peasants, I can inform you that since the morning of 14 June, when we heard the news of Arnaldo Ochoa's arrest, I have been meeting with various ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] cadres, members of other organizations, and thousands of peasants and their relatives. I can assure you that they feel deep anger because of the wound that Ochoa, Jorge Martinez, Tony de la Guardia, and his henchmen inflicted on the Cuban people, the party, the glorious and undefeated FAR, the MININT combatants, and especially on you, Comrade Commander.

During those meetings, the peasants expressed their absolute trust and confidence in our party, in the Revolution, and in you, Comrade Commander. They believe the full weight of the revolutionary laws should fall upon those despicable traitors who have stained the fatherland's honor and dignity. Thus, comrades, I agree with and I am absolutely convinced of the fairness of the decision to confirm the death sentence by firing squad passed by the special court-martial against Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Jorge Martinez Valdez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, and Amado Padron Trujillo. That sentence is the only exemplary way to cleanse the outrage committed against our dear people. I have finished.

[Miyar] Comrade Jose Ramirez Cruz.

[Ramirez] Comrade President, comrades of the Council of State: We have been experiencing days of horror, anguish, shame, and even—why not—days of resentment and hatred toward the traitors. We have felt these things toward those who, stepping on their own revolutionary background and services to the new Cuban society, to the fair, socialist society we are building, offended and abused the patriotic and rebellious tradition of the Cuban people. They betrayed Cuba, Fidel, and Raul. They betrayed our martyrs and the martyrs of the internationalist movement.

We have experienced moments of tension and deep meditation because of the causes that led to the offensive and miserable betrayal committed by convicted citizens Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, Amado Padron Trujillo, and Jorge Martinez Valdez. Those men accumulated extraordinary merits throughout their lives. Those merits were eventually properly acknowledged by our country's top leaders, people, and even other nations.

Based on the evidence presented and the actions proved during the penal proceedings we are examining, we asssert that betraying the fatherland is not only fighting it with weapons but also giving the enemy ways to undermine its pillars. Leaving the fatherland without protection is the same as surrendering it.

Those traitors have betrayed the fatherland out of cheap and personal interests and total indifference toward the fatherland's interests and revolutionary and human principles. Those traitors reached the shameful limits of committing crimes such as abuse of authority, corruption, trafficking of toxic drugs, and other crimes that oppose the principles and laws of our socialist society.

As you all know, I am of humble, peasant origin. I experienced all kinds of abuses and outrages during the times of capitalist society. I grew up in the most horrible misery. I worked for 7 pesos a month during my youth or for 1 peso per 12-hour shift. When my father's small parcel of land was not enough to support me and my 12 brothers as we grew up, when I failed to find a job in which I could at least earn that miserable peso, I revolutionarily took over some land to work it honestly and make it produce. As soon as I did that, I was labeled a squatter, I was pursued, imprisoned, and thrown off that land. Without economic resources and amid the previously described situation, alone with my physical efforts and morale, I managed to harvest some products, but I could not find any buyers. At the end, I fell into the hands of unscrupulous and heartless businessmen, who, without moving a finger, earned more money than those who worked the land.

I could not go to school. My first few children also did not go to school. I saw relatives and neighbors die for lack of medical care. On several occasions, I saw my children at death's door, because I did not have money to buy medicine.

I knew about all this and endured these sufferings, and I endured the anguish and uncertainty. I was part of over 500,000 unemployed farm workers, who with optimism modestly contributed to achieving this grandiose and humanist Revolution that we have today so wisely directly by our commander in chief from the beginning of the assault on the Moncada Barracks to date.

I suffered and saw the people suffer the consequences of the monopolies and the unscrupulous large landholders of the past. We have devoted ourselves to political and

ideological work, for the unity of the peasants and of the proletarian to [words indistinct] with that nightmare that was the proimperialist bourgeoise society.

We supported and worked under the leadership of Fidel and Raul to achieve with the revolutionary victory of 1 January 1959 our true independence. We supported and defended the two agrarian laws of the Revolution that quickly ended the reign of the large and rich landholders who had dreams of becoming richer all the time as the people became poorer. We have fought for the achievement and development of the cooperative movement of our hard-working peasants, which helps them not only to implement science and technology but to humanize coexistance in the new communities with electrification and other social benefits and to educate them and promote a feeling of true comradeship, brotherhood, and solidarity among the peasants, thus eliminating the individualism inherited from the past society of bourgeoise landholders.

Having said all of this, Comrade President and other comrades of the Council of State, we wonder: How could we admit and pardon those who after having gained merit, rank, and power now trample on our people, our history, our martyrs, and offend and betray our just socialist society, internationalism, the power of workers and peasants, the party, and Fidel? As a citizen of [words indistinct] and as a member of this Council of State, I vote for the ratification and implementation of the death penalty by firing squad against the accused, Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, Amado Padron Trujillo, and Jorge Garcia Valdez [name as heard], according to the verdict issued by the military court of the People's Supreme Tribunal, case No 1, dated 1989, of the special court-martial.

Thank you.

[Miyar] Comrade Roberto Robaina.

[Robaina] Comrade Commander in Chief, comrades members of the Council of State: This is undoubtedly the most bitter meeting in which I, at least, have ever participated. We have always been asked to give an opinion on what to do to advance the work of the Revolution, and today we all share the duty of voicing our opinion concerning the regrettable events that the special court-martial has learned. We have written our opinion, because we do not want to make any improvisations. We have meditated for several hours on this issue, aware of the responsibility the council members have and how difficult and delicate our decision is.

We have just returned from the DPRK, and this topic has been discussed by the Cuban delegation that attended the youth festival. The delegation unanimously feels there should be severe punishment. I must add that in Pyongyang, many youths from throughout the world approached us—not to find out about the facts, as these were widely known by all—but to voice their admiration for a revolution capable of discussing this issue, which almost ruined the purity of our work, in a public and courageous manner.

Comrades, hundreds of thousands of youths were born the same year four of these men here disembarked at a place close to Las Coloradas. We were forged in a revolution born of the centavos earned by the men who formed the first vanguard detachment. This Revolution has never depended on ill-gotten money, not even in its most difficult moments. We have been trained with these principles, and we have followed this education. We flatly reject anything that damages this image we have from our childhood on the heroic modesty of those men.

Together with thousands of youths, I had the unparalleled opportunity to stay in Angola together with other humble and courageous men and women. We shared the barracks, where we wrote, read, and spoke around the only existing light bulb. We all experienced nostalgia for our remote homeland, and I witnessed many demonstrations of manliness, human solidarity, courage, and tenderness. We flatly reject with indignation anything that attempts to damage the image we have of the internationalist mission honorably carried out by hundreds of men and women. We flatly reject it, because the work of an entire people cannot be purposely discredited, and we would not be worthy children of our fatherland if we allowed it. This affront to the greatness of a people cannot go unpunished.

Those who favor a pardon have appealed to our party's generosity and to the defendants' repentance. However, let us all recall that in September 1987, Fidel appeared on television regarding a case of corruption and embezzlement. While he spoke, these men did not repent and did not have the slightest inkling of generosity, choosing to continue to serve as mediators in the drugs designed to kill thousands of people in the world. The greatest dishonesty was not feeling alluded to when Fidel stated time and again Cuba had nothing to do with drug trafficking, thereby harming the credibility of our Revolution, which has existed based only on its truth.

Millions of Cubans during these days have been keeping abreast of the 14 poor lives, so to speak. However, these 14 poor lives did not for 1 minute have a single thought of the millions of Cubans who were on the verge of suffering international discredit, shame, and the most unimaginable reprisals. We ask ourselves: How can persons emerge in the midst of our society who feel and act above this society? How can someone who risks his life for a noble cause and receives the love of his fellow beings later use his clean life to throw it down a lowly and shameful path?

As never before, I feel Che's lesson must be renewed daily. A leader must have and lack what is had and lacked by the common man. This must be true not only

of the leaders but must also apply to our party and our state. I am not advocating absolute and cheap egalitarianism, which leads us to no good. I simply believe inequality harms us a lot when it is unnecessary and damaging.

I have heard expressions such as: One can no longer believe in anyone. It is natural to hear such expressions at moments such as these. In the face of treason, wrath first always takes hold of one's feelings. However, socialism did not invent traitors. They exist since the time of the Bible. Even if they continue to exist, men will continue to trust in men. Our history is full of heroism, and among the hundreds of admirable pages we have written in more than a century of battles, only a few lines have been stolen by abominable persons. I think that regardless of how shameful the situation is, such actions can never stain the example of hundreds of thousands of true, authentic heroes of yesterday and today, who with their just, clean, and ever-increasing page of sacrifice, continue to be permanent sources of admiration, respect, and examples to follow.

I particularly consider this to have been a great lesson for Cuban youths. First, because it ratified the pureness of the principles with which we were educated. It clearly defines that nobody is above the people. Nobody can erect himself in a marble or diamond tower, much less export death with impunity from Cuban territory. I also think about, comrades, the sadness of the defendants' relatives, of their fate, because they will live in our society. This, of course, harms our decision. But alongside this thought, an even stronger thought prevails, which is the harm their actions were causing to the peoples and to their own family. I think of the mothers and children of those who offered their lives in Angola. I think of unknown families whose children have taken the drugs that, thanks to these individuals, reached the United States. I think of their disloyalty to the people. I think of how they betrayed themselves and, believe me, the balance leans heavily toward capital punishment. This, of course is the decision I share.

Thank you, very much.

[Miyar] Comrade Pedro Saez Jove.

[Saez] Comrade Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, comrade members of the State Council: Given the seriousness of the events involved in the case remanded to the State Council so that, in full use of the powers conferred upon it by law, it can approve or revoke the sanction imposed on the defendants Arnaldo Ochoa, Antonio de la Guardia, Amado Padron, and Jorge Martinez; given the fact that the Revolution's prestige has been affected, national security endangered, and that in an irresponsible and adventurous manner the defendants—neglecting the most basic principles that must govern a revolutionary's life—perpetrated hostile actions against a foreign state, trafficked with lethal drugs, and took advantage of their positions; and that these charges have been fully proven by the court that tried them; as a member of the State Council, I believe that the sentence of death by firing squad should be carried out. That is all.

[Miyar] Comrade Zeida Suarez Premier.

[Suarez] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, comrades of the State Council: When I heard of Ochoa's arrest on the radio and read about it in the newspapers, and later listened to our FAR Minister Raul Castro's speech, I was greatly disturbed and angered by the immoral acts that had been perpetrated, the drug trafficking, the illicit wealth gained, the immorality, and the ideological degradation by a group of FAR and MININT officers.

I followed the military honor court's work very closely. This group of corrupt individuals attempted to shake the Cuban people's patriotism, which was attained through heroic acts, sacrifice, struggle, and irreproachable morals. They cast doubt on the commander in chief's recent statements. He said—and has always said—that Cuba is free of drugs, that drug trafficking does not exist here. These inferior individuals, particularly their top leaders—Ochoa, Martinez, De la Guardia, and Padron—did not reflect for an instant on the interview Fidel granted a Venezuelan journalist regarding drug trafficking in Cuba. On the contrary, they continued their corrupt life-style. This is an outrage, an offense, an effort to deceive Fidel and the Revolution. These men dared to sully this free fatherland's sacred name, its only name: Cuba.

I can only find it in my heart to tell Ochoa, Tony de la Guardia, and his group that this combative, hardened, and internationalist people will not be betrayed. They will go forward with their banners of victory. Totally unchecked, this group found it easy to bring drugs into the country, and they succeeded in this repugnant effort. They were members of the (?government). Included were the chief of the Cuban military mission in Angola, the chief of the MININT mission, and the military mission chief's aide. This proves that they betrayed the fatherland and Fidel.

Comrades, as a member of the State Council, I approve the sentence of death by firing squad for defendants Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Jorge Martinez, Antonio de la Guardia, and Amado Padron for perpetrating acts of hostility against a foreign state, trafficking with lethal drugs, and taking advantage of their positions. They must wash away with their blood the stain they attempted to leave on our strong and dignified fatherland. This malignant evil must be destroyed at its very roots. We will never allow our principles to be destroyed. Fidel, I am with you and the party. Thank you, very much.

[Miyar] Comrade Lidia Tablada.

[Tablada] Comrade Commander in Chief, comrades of the State Council: We have been summoned to fulfill the duty of studying and rendering a decision on events which, undoubtedly, will constitute a milestone in our country's history. In my particular case, the Revolution's generosity has bestowed upon me the unpleasant privilege of being a member of the state's highest representative body, thus bestowing upon me the duty of making a decision on an exceptionally important event alongside this State Council's members, who are comrades of very high revolutionary standing.

I will state my views, comrade commander in chief, bearing in mind our motto of commitment to the Revolution, and the honesty which you have taught us. People like us do not deserve nuisances such as De la Guardia, Padron, and their gang. Our people are the hundreds of thousands of generous internationalists, the courageous youths in the Turquino Plan, the builders working in the contingents, in short, the people who every day, anonymously, modestly, and devotedly confirm their dedication to socialism, to a rich future of growth nurtured by the blood and sacrifice of the fatherland's best sons. There is no room in that future for the defendants or anyone who lacks the dignity to deserve to be called a Cuban.

It is not easy to decide whether human beings should live or die. However, Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, Amado Padron Trujillo, and Jorge Martinez Valdez deserve the death sentence, even though I consider Ochoa a part of our beautiful and heroic history. I do not believe that the problem can be reduced to the execution of a handful of individuals, whose guilt no one doubts because of the seriousness of their crimes and the infamy of their disloyalty.

I will take the liberty of quoting Che Guevara: A counterrevolutionary is a man who fights against the Revolution; he is also the man who uses his influence to purchase a house, two cars, who disregards rationing regulations, who has all the things the people lack and flaunts them, or who does not flaunt them but has them. This is a counterrevolutionary. He must be reported immediately. Anyone who uses his good or evil influence to his own or his friends' advantage is a counterrevolutionary and he must be persecuted—but with fury—persecuted and annihilated.

I believe that the most important thing we should consider is how this small group—which considered itself to be all-powerful and above the law and which existed according to corrupt and shameful ethics—was formed, how it grew, and how this was allowed to happen. Corruption is not determined by a sudden whim or as a result of a particular set of circumstances, and this applies both to corruption within individuals and corruption as a social phenomenon. Corruption is the end result of a process. The events we are considering are not the result of the attitudes of a single man or a group of men; instead, these events were the result of a corrupt environment, a completely misguided view of life characterized by underestimating the value of ethical and moral principles and the Revolution's foundation. These events occurred as a result of personal and institutionalized delusions of grandeur, which led to a feeling of impunity and arrogance.

To believe that one is serving the Revolution by maintaining a certain attitude toward it is to put a price on the Revolution. When we overestimate our daily work, we begin to believe that we are above everyone else, and this leads us to live beyond our means. We should devote ourselves to the Revolution, not just serve it. We should devote our entire lives to the Revolution and do our duty. Any action or instrument that violates ethical, moral, and revolutionary principles of the people, for the people, and particularly existing among the people is disastrous and must be attacked with drastic measures.

It is not simply a matter of making this obviously guilty, small group take the stand. I believe that we are obligated to put them on trial and to condemn them for what they have done, for the lives they led behind the people's back, for their negligence, for their bureaucratic formulas and solutions, for their dishonesty, for their lack of strong, severe, and timely criticism, for their weakness in failing to truly follow the party as Raul and you, Comrade Fidel, have taught us. I truly believe that if these just measures on which we are to decide today are not followed up with measures to take care of the root causes, the possibility will be left open for such cases—possibly much worse cases—to arise in the future. I fully trust that these measures will be taken. I confirm that I vote that these convicted people be executed.

[Miyar] Comrade Ramiro Valdes Menendez.

[Valdes Menendez] Comrade President of the State Council, comrades: I would like to briefly explain why I believe that it is just, necessary, and inevitable that the four who were convicted by the court-martial of treason against the fatherland and the Revolution be executed by firing squad.

Throughout this trial, following our initial shock, we have all become increasingly aware of the seriousness of these events. First, there was the information that appeared in GRANMA, followed by the hearings, and, finally, the prosecutor's closing argument. All this has enabled us to see that we are up against an unprecedented case in the Revolution's history. Our Penal Code's most rigorous punishment—the death sentence—is fully justified in this case.

We now understand that this is not only a case of treason against the country's moral and legal principles; an offense has been committed against neighboring and friendly countries, which has caused serious damage to

the Cuban Revolution's credibility and international prestige. This case constitutes an attack against our fartherland's security. Moreover, a crime against humanity has been committed.

To help smuggle 6 tons of cocaine into any country—whatever the circumstances—is a crime against humanity. It means helping thousands of drug addicts—who lack willpower and most of whom are young—to destroy themselves. It means murdering youths and children, destroying families, and promoting theft, violence, and criminal activity associated with this great scourge of our time. Drug traffickers are committing genocide. If those who take part in this filthy business are also military officials who use their rank, position, and responsibilities to conceal their crimes, we must not hesitate to impose the maximum sentence.

The issue of illegal drugs concerns the entire international community and is one of the most sensitive issues in Latin America and the Caribbean today. Cuba's clean image and our government's clear position on this issue lead us to make combatting drug trafficking one of our goals for which we seek the area countries' cooperation and unity as well as Third World cooperation in general. These people have attacked our foreign policy's vital goals with their adventurous, corrupt, and irresponsible conduct. They have taken aim at our prestige on the continent; they have made it possible, for the first time, for Cuban officers to appear to the African countries to be vulgar neocolonialists and diamond and ivory traffickers.

Their filth has soiled the memory of all the internationalists who have died in friendly countries throughout these years and soiled the example of hundreds of thousands of fighters and civilian workers who have taken to other countries the Cuban Revolution's message of abnegation, selflessness, and solidarity. The trampling on and betrayal of these sacred values is an action that can only be paid with one's life.

The convicted have accepted that they have seriously damaged Cuba's authority and credibility before the world. They gave the enemy arguments to attack us and justify the miserable plans with which they try to isolate, weaken, and destroy us. Their most reprehensible behavior disproved the Cuban president's statements that our country was not involved in drug trafficking. They undermined the strength of the Cuban Revolution's position in every international forum. Thus, the full enforcement of the sentence issued against the four main culprits for these actions and the avenging of this offense has become an indispensable condition for Cuba to recover from the damage, restore its affronted dignity and morals, and counter our long-time enemy's threats.

To compound it all, these crimes have been perpetrated against a country that had and still has tens of thousands of fighters in a state of war on the other side of the ocean, a country against which new plans for aggression and intimidation are being planned by the U.S. Government. Under the circumstances, trying to corrupt and demoralize the country's armed institutions and casting filth and shame on the combatants who man the foremost positions of all the people's mobilization to defend the homeland and the Revolution is tantamount to endangering the country's stability and security.

If, as it has been said, these shameful phenomenona had provided the U.S. authorities with irrefutable evidence to report the issue on the international level, the campaign launched and the hostility unleashed would have been such that our nation and our revolutionary cause would have virtually been rendered defenseless; our fighting morale would have been undermined; and we would have even had to face a situation in which friendly nations and allied nations would be so confused that their solidarity toward Cuba would have been weakened.

There is only one name for this: high treason; and one sentence: death. Treason does not only involve acting in agreement with the enemy; treason is also doing what is more convenient for the enemy out of ambition, moral corruption, and disgraceful renouncement of military and revolutionary honor, which is what happened in this case. The convicted men have been brought to court in accordance with the state's law, but all our people and all of us are once more facing the court of history.

I feel, as on other occasions in our past, that we are facing a decisive moment for the Revolution. Now is the time to reassert our principles with serenity but unmovable firmness, without hesitation or fear of any new campaign the enemy may prepare. Let us fulfill our bitter duty. I vote that these sentences be carried out, because I am convinced they are absolutely just and represent Cuba's dignity, the Revolution we will deliver to our children, the morale and goals that inspire the Cuban people, the guarantee that events like this will never occur again, and the assurance that our cause will be much more lofty, pure, and clean.

[Miyar] Comrade Roberto Veiga.

[Veiga] Comrade President, Council of State comrades: All the people have followed with indignation and concern the shameful events that led to the process that resulted in this meeting being convoked. The events were discussed first at the Honor Tribunal proceedings and then at the Military Court.

The situation has been discussed publicly, broadly, and openly. It has been said and it is absolutely true that only a party, a government, and a country that are acting purely and honestly and that are in possession of tested ethics and morals can act this way.

I am certain when I say the seriousness of the crimes perpetrated by the people mentioned here, crimes that have been publicized and on which evidence has been produced, fully justify the sentence imposed by our courts. This is a painful sentence, but I support it.

While Fidel—on behalf of the party, government, and people—rejected continuous campaigns of slander launched by an enemy that tried to link our country to drug trafficking; while Fidel, justly angry, was acting this way, this group of unscrupulous and irresponsible people was dedicated to this dirty and revolting business, thus staining the honorable uniforms of the glorious FAR officers and soldiers and the brave Interior Ministry fighters. They engaged in drug-trafficking activities, thus circumventing their assigned mission, and they met with drug traffickers, even giving the impression they represented our official institutions.

It can be easily understood that this represents vile and unforgivable treason against the country's prestige and honor. This was a miserable stab to our commander in chief's credibility, to the credibility that a man who has always lived by the principle of telling the truth deserves. The enemy knows our main weapon is our morale, dignity, and honor. It is trying to weaken our strength with what it has been fed by a group of criminals. Sooner or later, the truth will win. It is already winning. The imperialists knew about the group's activities. You do not have to be an expert to realize this. However, they did not tell us anything, because it was more important to them to create conditions that would permit hitting the Revolution in its strongest asset and, if possible, to use such a sensitive issue to create in the United States and internationally an atmosphere that would justify military action against Cuba. This was more important to them than their blabbering about the struggle against drug-trafficking. The hypocrisy and the low moral level of the imperialists have been confirmed again.

These brief statements are sufficient to confirm the seriousness of the crimes committed by the convicted men. They did not only commit revolting crimes associated with abuse of authority, the violation of our laws, indiscipline, waste, illegal securing of wealth, and corruption, crimes that justify the most severe sentence; they committed more serious crimes. They acted against the country's dignity and honor and the security of the state. The convicted men irresponsibly involved themselves in a very dangerous game and endangered vital interests of the Revolution. There has been talk about extenuating circumstances, about the record, the merits, and the rank of some of the convicted men, but in our opinion, these are not extenuating but strong aggravating circumstances, because we live by the principle that the more responsibility a person has, the more serious a crime committed by that person is, and the more trust a person has, the more despicable his treason is. In addition to this, giving special consideration to the facts that could be viewed as extenuating facts, we have concluded the convicted men were fully aware of the political and military danger in which they were placing the country as a result of their ambitions, disloyalty, and corruption.

The courts have handed down capital punishment in the most notorious cases. They believe this will serve as a good enough example and lesson. I support the rulings of the courts, but I do not think that the state attorney's office was exceedingly strict by calling for capital punishment for seven [as heard] of the accused.

The offense against the fatherland was too big. This is why the people demand severe punishment. The enemy will criticize us for this decision. It would criticize us if we were not to make this decision. We are not going to carry out any action based on what the enemy may say but based on what our obligations and our conscience tell us, on revolutionary principles, on the responsibilities we have with the people we serve, on the legitimate right we have to guarantee the country's security and future.

We would not be acting humanely if we were not to act in a sober fashion in the face of these events. We would be acting against our people, whose dignity has been hurt and their calm threatened. We would be acting against millions of men and women, mostly young people and children, who in many places of the world, including the United States, are the victims of the cruel scourge of drug consumption.

We will reach the necessary conclusions from this experience. I repeat: I agree with the decision of the special military tribunal to apply the death sentence to Arnaldo Ochoa, Jorge Martinez, Antonio de la Guardia, and Amado Padron. We have no alternative.

[Miyar] Comrade Felix Vilar Bencomo.

[Vilar] Comrade Fidel Castro, members of the Council of State: Ever since we learned through the press and other news media that Arnaldo Ochoa, Tony de la Guardia, and his group were arrested, we realized this was a matter of great importance, which endangered the prestige of our Revolution. However, after learning of their wrongdoing, we believe they not only endangered the prestige of the Revolution but our fatherland's morals and dignity as well.

The party, the people, and Fidel, who has led this Revolution, trusted them. This Revolution has been so generous it cannot be tarnished by anyone, let alone by a group of criminals of this type, because our people are willing to defend the Revolution at any cost.

We have paid attention to the entire process to which the traitors have been subjected. As a delegate, I agree with the decision of the special military tribunal, because I believe it is fair and necessary. It is my people's decision. As a deputy, I believe they all deserve the death penalty, but our Revolution and our laws are so generous that some of them did not receive the death sentence.

As a member of the Council of State, I support the decision of the special military tribunal; therefore, I believe those involved should face the firing squad. I also believe it is necessary to implement forceful measures so disgusting incidents such as these are not repeated.

I have finished.

[Miyar] Jose M. Miyar. [calling himself]

Commander in chief, comrades: This process, which includes this meeting today, has had great repercussions both inside and outside the country, not only because of the seriousness and unusual nature of the crimes we are discussing here in Cuba, but also because of the open, brave, clean, and honorable way in which it all developed; because of its educational, ideological, political, and moral nature; and because of the careful way in which the process has been handled in strict compliance with the law.

The process and the way it was made public has served to completely clarify the incidents, the way it all began, the way it evolved, and the responsibility of each one of those involved, thus eliminating any doubts they were a group of individuals who betrayed the principles, morals, and ethics of the Revolution and became a gang of drug traffickers.

The Honor Tribunal has been unprecedented and of great historical importance. The great dignity, honesty, and sincerity, and the great moral and ethical strength that has resulted from its actions are a reflection of the morals and dignity of our FAR.

The people showed their support for Comrade Raul's report before the honor tribunal and for the attitude of the generals. The people greatly shared their viewpoints. The trial sessions at the special military tribunal and the open, clear coverage of the sessions allowed the people, who followed them daily, to participate in the process, analyze, and pass judgment. The charges documented and carefully reviewed during the trial were clearly proved. In his final report, the prosecutor described each one of the incidents very clearly.

However, I would like to point out one thing, which although it has not been discussed here does not mean it is not important. Even though for many years our enemies talked about Cuba's alleged involvement in drug trafficking, it was not until early 1988 that this campaign reached its highest, aggressive, and dirty levels. In February 1989, for the first time, they tried to involve top leaders of the country in drug-trafficking charges. This gross lie was flatly denied by our commander in chief. This disgusting campaign was tied to another campaign regarding alleged violations of human rights in Cuba, which coincided with the meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, where the United States wanted our country to be condemned. To do this, they exerted all types of pressures, threats, and blackmail against the member countries of the commission. The Revolution was able to defeat both of these campaigns. The list of lies in which the drug-trafficking charges against Cuba were based was proved wrong. Our people once again saw the flags of dignity and morals waving high in the hands of the revolutionary leaders.

While these incidents were going on, this criminal group's actions were endangering the credibility, honor, dignity, moral strength, and even the security of the country. In that same period, they conducted drug shipments in Varadero; in April, they held two meetings with different groups of drug traffickers; and in May, one of them even traveled to Medellin and met with none other than Pablo Escobar, one of the top drug traffickers in the world.

How can these incidents be described? They were a betrayal of the country, the people, the Revolution, and Fidel. Those involved in these dealings have tarnished the country's image. They have hurt the people and undermined the prestige of the Revolution. All these incredible incidents took place precisely during one of the most creative periods of the Revolution—when the people led by Fidel were conducting a process of rectification, the first objectives of which were to rescue man's conscience as the most important element of man's conduct.

A great effort was made to rescue and implement the most essential elements of Che Guevara's thoughts, the values he defended along with Fidel. Those individual and collective values have resulted in important changes in the attitude of workers. Impressive changes have taken place in the country, where the production of goods and services has increased and where organization and productivity have become the symbol of the process.

While the country was being transformed into a giant working place, these shameful events were taking place. These events were isolated and unusual cases, as we said before. When we ask ourselves how these events could occur and what led these men to carry out these monstrous acts, it is clear the main reason lies in their having lived outside our society; they did not participate in our problems and were not part of our people, their efforts, and their struggle.

They were unaware of the basic goals of the work of the masses. They did not know the goals of voluntary work or the work that contingents and minibrigades carried out. They disconnected themselves completely from the problems of productivity, organization, discipline, and control. They placed themselves at a cosmic distance from the Cuban people's and Revolution leaders' goals and essential interests.

Far from virtuous things like austerity, humbleness, respect, and hard work, those men characterized themselves with their arrogance, self-sufficiency, and vanity. All these things led them to the highest degree of corruption.

Those men consciously violated all the highest ethical principles of our Revolution. They also committed their crimes while our ideology is the first weapon socialism has to fight imperialism. They committed their crimes while socialism is facing difficulties and problems and while imperialists are already talking about throwing socialism into the trash can of history. Those men committed their crimes while Cuba unfurled the flags of struggle, which are its morality, dignity, credibility, and purity. Cuba was, is, and will always be an undefeatable bastion of socialism and the Revolution. For its defense, Cuba has people whose main weapons are those flags.

Therefore, this stain, this outrage, this abuse, this brutal blow on the prestige of the Revolution deserves the corresponding sentence.

During the development of this painful and traumatic trial, the Cuban people expressed their anger over those men's actions. They have expressed their unyielding faith in the Revolution, the party, and our commander in chief. That faith will not be undermined with discrediting campaigns or treacherous actions. The Revolution has always acted openly and cleanly. It taught the people to make conscious and fair decisions, which is how it was in the case we are discussing now.

I believe the sentence pronounced by the special court-martial is correct; I support that sentence.

Comrade Juan Almeida.

[Almeida] Comrade Fidel, comrades: On the night of the 27th [month not given], before leaving for Korea, I told a television reporter my opinion about the acts of corruption and drug-trafficking operations in which Ochoa, De la Guardia, and their group were involved. I told the reporter they all deserved exemplary punishment without any distinctions, because they had stained our people's honor and dignity. They had stained our martyrs, their fallen comrades-in-arms, Fidel, and the FAR's and the MININT's prestige. They committed a crime of high treason and a crime against humanity. I told the reporter the offense could only be erased by sentencing the main defendants to death by firing squad and by sentencing the other defendants to life imprisonment.

In view of the large amount of evidence presented in this case, I here and now express my support for the sentence pronounced by the special court-martial and confirmed by the military affair's court of the Supreme People's Tribunal.

I have concluded.

[Miyar] Comrade Osmani Cienfuegos Gorriaran.

[Cienfuegos] Comrade Members of the Council of State: During the last 3 decades and even before—during the times when we were at Sierra Maestra—the Revolution has given innumerable examples of its generosity. The Revolution has proved it can understand that human beings can make mistakes. When judging the behavior and actions of those who have even been its enemies, the Cuban Revolution has always rejected intolerance.

The sentence we are examining here has been a corrective measure rather than a punishment. This sentence has been a weapon to defend the principles of our society and its very survival.

Fidel told us that the Cuban Revolution would not be like Saturn, who swallowed his own children. The Revolution's attitude has been a source of pride for all of us and an example for the world. The revolution has been neither tolerant nor implacable.

The seriousness of the actions involved in the case we are examining goes far beyond the possibility of commuting the sentence pronounced by the special court-martial and confirmed by the Supreme People's Tribunal.

The recently conducted irreproachable trial, which was filled with guarantees, proved that a revolutionary, a general filled with glories earned in combat, his assistant, and a group of MININT officers betrayed the principles of the Revolution and let themselves be dominated by their ambition, moral degradation, and corruption. Those men jeopardized our revolutionary society's prestige, dignity, and moralilty. They endangered the security of our revolutionary state, itself.

Those men linked themselves with notorious, international drug traffickers and became vulgar and mediocre collaborators of such an unworthy and repulsive trade. Briefly, they committed a crime of high treason.

The four men sentenced to death by the special court-martial betrayed our people, our Revolution, our party, our history, their children and relatives, and Fidel.

Can we think of a more horrible betrayal of our people than Ochoa's betrayal? Ochoa was the chief of a military mission in a state of war. Instead of dedicating each minute of his life to his task, Ochoa dedicated his time to organizing drug-trafficking operations to obtain personal benefits. Is it not true that Ochoa also betrayed the troops who waged the heroic, epic battle in Cuito Canavale, which was commented upon by the entire world? Was this not treason to those who died during that war? Was this not treason to the FAR generals, officers, and soldiers who fulfilled their duty and were victorious in the southern front?

Can one imagine a more serious treason to the Angolan people than the treason committed by this man, who gave orders to carry out forbidden operations, damaged the Angolan economy through shady black market deals, and appropriated resources that had been delivered to him for defense purposes? Can one conceive of a more

despicable act of treason than the one committed by Ochoa against the brotherly Sandinist people, whom he also victimized with his lust for money?

Together with this man, Martinez, his aide, engaged in degrading activities related to drug trafficking—not in compliance with orders but as an accomplice. He acted like a vulgar criminal, traveled with false passports to pursue these ends, met with drug lords, familiarly mingled among these characters, and hinted or pretended his powers emanated from higher ups in the Cuban Government. Is this not treason?

Regarding Antonio de la Guardia and Amado Padron, both were guilty of the same, infamous crime. Shielded by the powers they possessed to circumvent the brutal embargo on Cuba, they established a system to protect drug-trafficking activities along Cuba's coasts and airspace, corrupted subordinates, and deceptively tried to cover up and erase the clues to their crimes. Incredibly, irresponsibly, they opened cracks in the shield protecting the security of their homeland, which is under constant harassment by imperialism.

By undermining the selfless work of the MININT fighters, who struggle day and night to stave off enemy actions against Cuba, they betrayed their institution and their people. All of them created a most dangerous situation. Without even the slightest doubt, their machinations were being gleefully watched by the enemy, which could have been able to substantiate, at long last, its vile, slanderous charges that Cuba was linked to international drug trafficking and the smuggling of drugs into the United States.

What records and evidence did the imperialist enemy lack? What could it be planning to try to punish us? Some day we will know whether or not, hating the Revolution as it does and with evidence in hand, it was preparing an armed aggression against our people. For decades, the imperialist enemy has used its major mass media to attack the Revolution. It has manipulated information and distorted facts but has not been able to throw mud on the Revolution with its despicable lies. Thanks to the reputation of the Cuban Revolution, this infamy has not prospered. The voice of the Revolution, expressed through its top leaders, Fidel and Raul, has been respected and believed because—let us recall here the times at the Sierra Maestra—truth has always been a strategic weapon of the Revolution. The treason committed by these men could have had catastrophic effects on this major weapon.

If the Revolution had not brought out clearly the rotten activities in which this group was involved, what monstrous infamy would have fallen on it and its leaders? It was not repentance on the part of these men that allowed the Revolution to uncover their villainy and thus demonstrate its grandeur, fortitude, and courage once more. Let us not forget it was Fidel's shrewdness and courage that brought out into the open this monstrous scheme, however painful it was. A substantial amount of evidence clearly demonstrated the culpability of the defendants, which was admitted by all of them.

As a revolutionary, I believe men can redeem themselves. Although at some points during the honor tribunal hearing some depositions sounded honest, the disclosures made throughout the trial led one to conclude that their actions involved incurable and unredeemable guilt. The one thing that gives meaning to a revolutionary's life is his status as such. This is where his honor lies, and they lost it.

For all those reasons, I fulfill my duty of bringing justice to our people and its Revolution and vote for the ratification of the maximum penalty: death before a firing squad. I think this exemplary penalty will serve as a warning so no one else in Cuba will wish to break the law. This bitter experience will not make the Revolution lose its trust in man; however, it will sharpen and strengthen our surveillance. This process and its outcome are not only a strong warning but also a lesson. No one can betray our people's virtues, trust, and safety—achieved at the cost of so much blood and effort—and go unpunished. Our people have every right to demand justice, and justice must be had.

[Miyar] Comrade Machado Ventura.

[Machado] Comrade President, Comrade Members of the Council of State: Regarding the penalty requested by the special military tribunal and by the supreme military court, I fully agree with the decision to request the death penalty for the four cases we heard. Even though I fully agree with everything said by my comrades who spoke before me, I would like to stress some points to support my vote.

The guilty parties have trampled the principles that have always guided our Revolution. They are guilty of attacking the prestige and credibility of the Cuban Revolution; they are guilty of betraying the trust bestowed upon them throughout the years by our leaders, party, and people. They abused the responsibility, duties, and rights the state placed in their hands, thereby disgustingly distorting the real reason for their missions. The accused have, to some extent, held several offices since the beginning of our Revolution. Therefore, it cannot be said their crimes are the result of lack of experience. They carried out degrading actions that express their moral degradation. They were disloyal to the people, the homeland, and the institutions they represented; in other words, they betrayed us.

We cannot deny we have been hurt; the accused did not stop a single second to think of the consequences that could result from their irresponsible actions. We cannot forget that with their crazy actions, they allowed the entry into the country of international criminals, thereby disregarding moral and revolutionary ethics. The crimes committed by the accused have endangered our national

security. They all show a high degree of social danger, and the common denominator is they have all betrayed the principles of the Revolution. That is the most important.

Because of the aforementioned, we support the punishment requested by the special military tribunal. To all their crimes we must add other serious crimes, such as committing hostile acts against a foreign state. The punishment must be exemplary. The Revolution has been able to take this hard blow because of its strength. Much mud has been thrown, but the Revolution's strength, cleanliness, history, and prestige—which cannot be separated from Fidel and Raul's teachings and personal example, which are always present—have prevailed. Recognizing the harm caused by the negative repercussions, locally and abroad, the Revolution will not lose a single ounce of authority, strength, or fighting power. The way our Revolution was born and has been led cannot but be described as impeccable, as this penal process has been handled.

The decision we adopt will not only be for the present; it will have future repercussions. We must learn the bitter lesson and avoid, at all cost, the repetition of incidents like these. We must also prepare the path for the new generations that will surely have to struggle, for many years to come, for the development of a socialist society in conditions of harassment by the imperialist enemy. The new generations will have a beautiful history and an excellent example of its predecessors to follow.

Comrade President, comrades of the Council of State: I conclude, reiterating that I agree that the requested sentence of death by firing squad, ratified by the appropriate tribunals, for the accused Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, Amado Padron Trujillo, and Jorge Martinez Valdez should not be commuted.

I have concluded.

[Miyar] Comrade Pedro Miret.

[Miret] Comrade president, comrade members of the Council of State: History has once again summoned us at a decisive moment. Within our people, but behind our people's backs, the germ of corruption, disloyalty, and treason, has once again emerged. The seriousness of these crimes is heightened by the fact that they were committed amid a process to correct mistakes and negative trends that began only 3 years ago. While the people with their bare hands built the wealth of the present and lay the foundations for the future, unscrupulous beings—removed from revolutionary ideology and the daily limitations that our people confront with dignity, cloaked by their offices, protected by the trust placed in them, and shaded by a lack of control [word indistinct] and the lack of revolutionary surveillance—attacked the ethics, morale, and principles of the Revolution. At a time when we asked of our people the biggest sacrifice—when hundreds of thousands of our best children share the honors of proletarian internationalism, while millions of men and women give the best of themselves with the winch and the furrow in the never ending activities of the minibrigades, building homes, day care centers, schools, and hospitals—a small group of corrupt adventurers sold themselves to the highest bidder, endangered the country's security, and turned our borders into safe passage for adventurers, drug traffickers, traitors, and who knows how many CIA agents.

Today we know that our skies have been repeatedly violated; that our coasts and cays have been repeatedly penetrated; that our streets, official houses, ports and airports, and cars have been used by the representatives of the international drug trafficking hoods to move in freedom, and like kings. Ochoa and Tony de la Guardia's almighty group broke the laws, mocked the established guidelines, and violated the highest ethical values of the Revolution. They created a grotesque empire masterminded by Ochoa's corrupt mind and run by Tony de la Guardia's devious group.

Our courts have proved their crimes beyond a doubt. There have been no strings left dangling. There is no doubt behind their real intentions. There is no vagueness in the shameful results. Once again, revolutionary justice has confronted those who, entangled and tempted by tinsel forgot their homeland; those who tired of serving a cause—now proved that they never had—abandoned themselves to the pleasures of the senses and to the vertigo of power.

With this process, the Revolution, party, and Fidel have given the people and the world a lesson in political courage, moral cleanliness, and faith in the masses. A son of this Revolution, and forever a follower of Fidel, I declare without a doubt that I have full faith in the future; I trust man; I trust the people and the party; I have a well-founded optimism in the path set in the indestructible strength of the Revolution; however, the Revolution must purge its ranks. The Revolution is not a bed of roses, revolutionaries cannot be chance adventurers, much less professional adventurers. I have no doubt that the punishment must be exemplary. There can be no half measures. A shot fired from rifles held by honest and firm hands must cleanse the stain of the traitors. Those who, because of lesser crimes, will not stand before the firing squad, must receive, together with the people's rejection, the full weight of the law. That is what the people are demanding and hoping for. We are sure that this heartbreaking lesson will serve as an example not only for today's revolutionaries but for the generations to come.

Therefore, as a member of the Council of State, I strongly express my support for the fulfillment of the sentence given by the Military Tribunal, that is, death before a firing squad for Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Antonio de la Guardia Font, Amadro Padron Trujillo, and Jorge Martinez Valdez.

[Miyar] Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

[Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez] Comrade chairman, comrade members of the Council of State:

I also favor enforcing the death sentence on convicts Arnaldo Ochoa, Antonio de la Guardia, Jorge Martinez, and Amado Padron. I think all those who were implicated in the drug trafficking could have been sentenced to death. However, one of the revolutionary tenets of our people has been not to be inflexible and the tribunal, which took exemplary action, has demonstrated once more its loyalty to the principles and rules of the Revolution.

I have always favored applying the death sentence to cases in which the convict apparently cannot be recovered by society; to cases involving crimes which are obviously repulsive and in which clemency cannot be granted because of the debasement of the culprits.

Such is the case at hand. As the honor court and Ochoa's fellow fighters have stated, Ochoa's previous merits cannot be regarded as extenuating but as aggravating circumstances. Ochoa is an intelligent man with an adequate political development and capable of weighing the consequences of his actions. It is true that he became morally degraded and this explains why he could sink so low politically.

However, corruption is also an aggravating circumstance. Arnaldo Ochoa not only betrayed but endangered the Revolution and its principles. As stated in the tribunal, he also endangered our Revolution's most powerful weapon: its moral strength. He demonstrated that he had become a most despicable being—all at once selfish, overbearing, and ambitious. He thought he was above everybody else and lost all of the values that should guide all of us revolutionaries. Like all of his associates, he traded on the lives of thousands of young people, forgot our dead in Angola and Ethiopia, and put Fidel's existence at risk.

Regarding the petty group that Tony de la Guardia directed, I do not think it is worth talking very much about it. It was a group of debased people who, before Ochoa, also endangered the Revolution. It also left us helplessly open to attack by the enemy. This group also deserves being put to death by firing squad.

What are the possible international consequences of our decision, which appears to be taking shape among the majority of those present here? What will be the reaction of those who are against the death penalty? I have the testimony of an outstanding international figure whose name I will not invoke. This person is a practicing Catholic who, when talking with one of our ambassadors, said that even though he was not an advocate of capital punishment he could understand why, in a case like this, the Cuban Revolution was resorting to it. The friends of our Revolution, those who respect us, know this is the most open trial in judicial history. They know that each and all of its proceedings have been watched by the public; that it has been watched by our national public opinion. They know that the prosecutor has shown care during every questioning. They know that the tribunal has fully adhered to the rules.

Consequently, we must not be afraid of international public opinion. Clearly, our enemies will criticize us when we execute them, and will also criticize us if we do not execute them. They will say that we are accomplices if we spare one who was part of our revolutionary leadership. I have here an article that was published in THE NEW YORK TIMES by the reactionary, ruthless watchdog who was placed by President Reagan in charge of Latin America years ago. What does Elliott Abrams say? He says, and I quote: The evidence has been available for years that the Cuban regime is involved in the traffic with the Medellin cartel.

Why did they not show this evidence to our Revolution? Why did they not relay it to us? They knew they had photographs showing the smuggler worm Reinaldo Ruiz in Varadero with Cuban intelligence agent [Miguel] Ruiz Poo. Yet, they did not make these photographs and this evidence available to us. Why? Because they were building a dossier against our Revolution and against Fidel. They were waiting to get some clue that would allow them to implicate Fidel Castro in all of these vile activities. Of course they could not do it. They were not able and will never be able to do that.

These are the heroes and martyrs they are proclaiming. They have pronounced Ochoa a hero. They are asking that he not be executed by firing squad because he is a hero to them, and they will proclaim him a martyr. We will let them keep these heroes and martyrs as a gift. If we execute Ochoa as all of us are proposing, we will have, in turn, the support of the Cuban people. Our people have very noble feelings. At a point during the process, when they thought that Ochoa would make amends and admit his crimes in shame, they hesitated for a moment and some of them thought that his life could be spared.

However, when our people watched Ochoa later during the proceedings and he looked arrogant, ambitious, and vile, our people supported the request for the death penalty. The Council of State is a political body. Without question, it must listen to public opinion. However, I am convinced that this Council of State would have found itself morally and politically obliged to convict Ochoa even if for some time the Cuban public had looked favorably upon a commutation of his death sentence. The crime was so monstrous and the effects of the crime would have been so devastating to our Revolution, that we would have found ourselves obliged to lead our people, to guide them, to transmit to them our experience in these cases.

We cannot be indulgent. It is hard for the Revolution to place before the firing wall someone who was a hero of our Republic. However, we are obliged to demonstrate to the people and to the world that a leader's duties cannot be forgotten; that none of us can forget them; that no one can place himself above them; that nobody can expect pardon if he betrays human beings, if he betrays the Revolution the way Ochoa and the wretched people who participated in this crime with him betrayed it.

The fact that we were friends of Ochoa, and the fact that we admired him the way we did further obliges us to understand how big his crime was. The Revolution has to demonstrate how ready it is to preserve its cleanliness. The punishment will serve as an example to all those who assume positions of responsibility in our country. We cannot hesitate. It is our duty and we must fulfill it. The Cuban people will know that we, the leaders of this country, are ready to pay with our own lives for our fulfillment of our duties. I have concluded, comrade president.

[Raul Castro] Comrade President, comrades of the Council of State:

On the occasion of the case that brings us here, my remarks of 14 June on the 28th anniversary of the Western Army and my report to the military honor tribunal 10 days later on 24 June—which, for obvious reasons, could not all be published—have been made public.

In addition, at the special plenum of the PCC Central Committee on 29 June, I also made a few comments that were not published and thus not made known to those present. Although I would like to be brief, as you know, and as we said on that occasion, I have supreme authority over the case. It is enough to say that today I, along with other officials, completed 26 days of living continuously at the FAR Ministry since the principal individuals involved in this case were detained, with the exception of a brief departure for insignificant health reasons and for another departure to participate in the previously aforementioned plenum. This does not include the two previous weeks, beginning 23 May, that we virtually devoted to the same problem. My mind and all my time, as has occurred with the dozens of comrade officials who dealt with this matter—especially those in military counterintelligence—had to be focused on this very delicate problem.

In reference to Fidel, I should say that in the MINFAR [FAR Ministry] alone and just from 12 June through dawn the day before yesterday, he has spent 153 hours in my office working on this same problem. This does not include the continuous 14 hours he spent in his own office in the Palace of the Revolution from mid-afternoon Sunday, the 11th [of June], through dawn on Monday, 12 June. This also does not include the immense amount of time he has spent on many other activities outside the MINFAR because of this bitter affair.

First of all, I want to stress that this Council of State meeting is the culmination of a process where each institution of our society that intervened or participated in solving the problem, including the newspaper of our party [GRANMA], has fulfilled its role without having Comrade Fidel make a public appearance until now. As everyone knows, he has been guiding the process through the institutions created by the Revolution and this process has been based strictly on socialist law.

At this time, each one of us who is a member of the Council of State and who must assume a personal position and responsibility has available to him all the elements of judgment to make an appropriate and completely conscious decision. We know the results of the investigation, the proceedings and recommendations of the honor tribunal, the complete development and results of the expeditious trial of the special military tribunal, the ratification of this decision by the Military Affairs Court of the Supreme People's Tribunal, and the activities that reflect the population's opinion which has been evident these past few days.

In reference to this, we have seen with satisfaction and legitimate pride, how the humanistic and generous nature of our own people has been demonstrated with their high level of political awareness and the comprehension that prevails today for the need for an exemplary justice for all, but primarily for those who are the most responsible for this barbaric act which is unprecedented in the history of the Revolution. I think that the lucidity of our people also includes the conviction that one of the inevitable measures to prevent a shameful act such as this from being repeated, is to not have the slightest hesitation in strictly enforcing the sentence.

Nevertheless, we do not ignore the fact that there are and there will continue to be people who are inclined to think that we should show clemency in the cases that have been submitted to the Council of State. I am not referring to the family members with whom we should have the greatest understanding and give them, as we have done without exception, all the support we can provide.

To all the arguments and reasons we have heard and which, in one way or another, have been expressed by the comrades who preceded me, I want to add the following:

If we do not apply the sanction approved by the special military tribunal and ratified by the supreme court in these four cases presented to us, then, as a comrade who preceded me said, in my opinion, this would lead to the consideration of the permanent abolition of the death sentence in our country. It would lack all the moral force expressed in one of the recently published GRANMA editorials which referred to the urgency for more severe

measures of all kinds and of a sensible increase in the strictness of our legislation, which, in my opinion, should include the death sentence for the most serious cases of corruption and drug trafficking.

If today we can maintain strict control and still show our solidarity and treat most humanely those who are ill or those who carry AIDS, which was introduced into our country, then we can fight mercilessly to prevent corrupted and dehumanized individuals from introducing the scourge of drugs in Cuba.

AIDS entered our country and it was impossible to avoid it. We received foreign visitors; Cuban citizens went abroad. However, drugs will never enter. They can only enter by iron and blood [solo a sangre y fuego podra entrar]; only capitalism can introduce it. As we said publicly, if I recall correctly, on 14 June, expressing the feeling of my own family, which is the only opinion I can give in this case, it is preferable for our beloved and beautiful island to sink into the ocean like the legend of Atlantis than to let the corruption of capitalism prevail here again.

For those who ask for clemency because of Ochoa's merits, what I say or will say is nothing new. Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has just said the same thing. This was also opportunely stated by the soldiers, officers, and generals in Angola. They said that Ochoa's merits should not be treated as extenuating circumstances; instead, they should be considered aggravating circumstances.

To those who appeal to emotions and pity and for the benefit of those who did not participate in the PCC meeting mentioned earlier, I should once again repeat the reasons previously cited. In 1988, in view of the increase and complexity of the war in southern Angola, we proposed that the chief of the Cuban military mission in that country be given the authority of frontline chief in war time. He was thus allowed to hold summary trials. This gave him the authority to sign death sentences according to the crimes they committed.

Through the justice minister, the president of the supreme tribunal and the attorney general of the Republic, the appropriate measures were taken from a legal stance to bestow the authority of frontline chief in war time upon Ochoa, who was then a division general. He signed three death warrants for young Cuban soldiers for violating and murdering female Angolan comrades. Even under those circumstances, so that no one's life depended on a single person there, the legal instruments were established, which were approved for that situation, so that I had to ratify the death sentence here.

Ochoa subjected the three soldiers to an expeditious trial. They were condemned to death. He signed their death warrants. I ratified them here. At that time, my hand did not shake to sign them because they were just decisions. Today, my hand will not shake either as I sign the death warrant recommended by the tribunal in the four cases that have been presented to us here at this Council of State meeting.

The mothers of those three youths also could have asked for clemency. If we do not carry out this sentence, we will have to ask them to forgive us.

As I also said at the PCC plenum, you know me. You know I am not an overly-sentimental man. One morning, just before the sun came up, at the end of an extremely long session presided over by Fidel, after we realized the seriousness of the problem once the topic of drugs was discovered, with my head tormented, as I imagine the rest of the comrades felt, with a lack of sleep, while I walked around my own office; I went to brush my teeth in the bathroom that is behind my office. I looked at myself in the mirror in the bathroom and I saw that tears were streaming down my cheeks. At first, I was angry at myself. I immediately composed myself and I understood then that I was crying for Ochoa's children whom I have known since they were born. I cried for the children of the other people involved who would probably be sentenced to death or to long prison terms. Even though I did not know them, I cried for their mothers and for the rest of their family. But above all, I cried for our people, for the ton of mud [tonelada de fango] that would be thrown at them if this sentence would not be fulfilled because of his historic merits.

If the sentence is not fulfilled because of historic merits, we will be creating an ill-fated precedence of impunity for all those in this country who, in one way or another, enjoy the recognition of the people as some of us in this meeting do. If we allow ourselves to be intimidated by the campaigns of the enemy, or if we give in to pressures from others, regardless of their motivation, we will make a grave error of immeasurable consequences. On more than one occasion, for fear of those campaigns or giving in to pressure, we have not taken measures that would have been very opportune and beneficial to us.

Let us not forget that the people know it all. Many times, they know it before we do and they almost always know more than we do in reference to what is not well in the country. Let us not forget that it benefits the enemy when we are hesitant and indulgent with this type of corrosive behavior. Let us put an end to the mediocrity and cowardice of those who seek shelter behind the unfounded or real threat that the enemy can use our errors against us and thus they preach tolerance and weakness in response to this behavior.

Because of all this, I add my vote to those cast by all others who have called for the fulfillment of the sentence imposed by the special military tribunal which was ratified by the Supreme People's Tribunal. Last of all, I

think, and I do not wish to exhaust the topic at this meeting [taps table with finger], that we should ask ourselves: What do we do immediately after this painful and bitter process ends?

Perhaps the best response was given by a man of the people, a simple military man of the grass roots organization when he said: Now the rectification of errors will advance 10 years.

However, to attain this, it is necessary for us to reach conclusions and to extract from our experiences without extremism, without making room for the gossiping that tends to flourish at times like this, and without conducting a witch hunt. This will help us suppress the most minimal demonstration of depravity [relajo] and will help us begin a continuous and systematic national cleansing in all instances of our society down through the grass roots because, unfortunately, there are also cases of corrupted workers. But this cleansing should begin with our own organs of leadership at all levels and we should conduct it ourselves.

I have concluded, Comrade President.

Castro Comments on MICONS Report at ANPP

FL1807023489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2306 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Report by Marta Bares on ANPP session held at Havana's Palace of Conventions, during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] [Bares] Good evening, Daniel. Good evening, Cuba. As you have said, the exchange of opinions on the Ministry of Construction's [MICONS] report to the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] took up the main part of the Cuban parliament's 1st day of discussions.

Over 40 reports were given by various delegates in this session, these do not include the statements given by Deputy Fidel Castro. Now we will offer our listeners some of the opinions given by the commander in chief on the population's needs and the best way to solve them.

[Begin Castro recording] Once again, I come back to the concept of Santa Claus and the three kings. People have this view of the Revolution. I have spoken about this more than once; people ask, and ask, and ask, and ask, and ask, and they want, want, want, and want. The people want hospitals, polyclinics, housing, schools, sewers, they want everything. This is true. However, I remind you of the reality that all of the nation's social development programs require serious development of economic programs and serious development of industrial programs. Not only do we have to attend to the needs of the people, we have to attend to the needs of agriculture, [repeats himself] the needs of agriculture, the need to supply the people, and the needs of industry. This is not an easy task, it requires much work. Just the same, when someone says: Build me a sewer [chuckles], we need many things. We do not just use one worker and one machine; we also need materials to build that sewer. I can assure all the deputies that we are concerned about all of these things and we are doing whatever is possible.

We are trying to work the miracles that are needed to solve many of our historical problems. We are trying to work miracles that are only possible through work, miracles that are being shown by some of our construction workers. [end recording]

[Bares] Here is the commander in chief on the forming of the contingents that will finish building the (Isca) and (Cujay), which have been under construction for the past 20 years.

[Begin Castro recording] In my search for disgraces—I have had to dedicate part of my life to looking for disgraces—I said: Well, we have made advances in the construction of this and the other thing, in hundreds of things. What do we have now? I said: We have the (Isca) and we have the (Cujay). We should promise to finish them, but then, we should not promise anything to anyone. This is not a matter of promising, it is a matter of doing. I spoke with [Esteban] Lazo and I said: [Word indistinct] we have to do something. I think the only way to finish this shamelessness is to create two contingents.

I do not want many people in the contingent, only 150 or 200 people, but I want them organized like a contingent. I then gave him the structure, salary system, and work system of the contingents. This is how the last two contingents we established in the nation [words indistinct] which is already working there as a contingent. I am sure now, that the (Isca) is finally going to be finished. I have no doubt about this.

We then organized another contingent with the same workers. We said: Those of you who want to continue as volunteers—these have to be volunteers, to be a contingent you have to be a volunteer and to belong to a contingent you have to volunteer—it is not the same thing to organize a new contingent as to get a group of old construction workers who have built 500,000 [word indistinct] and organize a contingent. So then, we are organizing a contingent. They are already working, in both places. I think that finally, with the magic formula of the contingents, an evil that has lasted for almost 100 years [as heard] has been solved with a constructive and revolutionary formula.

I said: Let's put our contingents on the budget. This is not a matter of materials, because we are constantly lacking materials. There is not a single day that goes by that we do not try to increase production of materials. There is not a single day that we do not build a cement factory or something. While we increase production, there is not a single day that we do not discuss saving. In cement we have been saving [words indistinct] 300,000.

We have that here in the Construction Ministry's report. Close to this is a bigger disgrace, the glass house. This is a university institution that has been under construction for over 20 years. We have decided to finish it. I do not know if [words indistinct] more or less when it will be finished. I do not know how long we propose to finish it in, I think it is 3 years. In about 3 years we will also finish the (Cujay). That is also a great disgrace. [end recording]

[Bares] Here is what the commander in chief had to say about repairing teaching centers:

[Begin Castro recording] Talking about schools, we need to make a brigade corp to finish the secondary school plans. With respect to maintenance, one of the most serious problems we have is the secondary schools. Well, the problem is the secondary schools and rural pre-university schools. Every year a certain amount of money, a budget, is assigned to this. There are no organized groups to carry out what I proposed at the meeting I had with the youth leaders. At this meeting I said there was a need to organize the brigades. I think we could [words indistinct] Ministry of Education's petition that is gigantic. Their petition deals with I do not know how many brigades. The Ministry of Education has a habit of asking for things in large quantities. But well, I asked how many brigades we had to organize, especially since it [words indistinct] in main plans. For example, in Jaguey Grande there are 50 or 60 schools.

What I was proposing was to organizing maintenance brigades. These brigades should then have the material resources directly assigned to them, instead of having them assigned through the ANPP. Otherwise, they will never get them. If the material resources are assigned through the ANPP, they are usually assigned to something else. [end recording]

[Bares] Finally, here are some of Construction Minister Homero Crabb Valdes' opinions, given especially to "Exclusivo".

[Begin Crabb Valdes recording] I think that the entire discussion on the MICONS report to the ANPP has been very productive. In this discussion, we have talked about the fundamental problems in the construction sector. These opinions are a result of having analyzed the report, as well as the introductory document. Also, the commission's opinion was very good. We truly value their opinion and find it very just and very objective. The commission covered the fundamental problems faced by the MICONS. We have to continue to work on solving certain aspects that have not yet been solved.

I believe that the deputies have been at a level that is in keeping with this high-level state organ. They have pointed out the main problems and the fundamental problems. I think that the commander in chief's opinions on construction, as always, were very enlightening. His views have helped the deputies, as well as the MICONS, to understand certain matters. I also believe his opinions will help the construction workers to continue laboring with renewed efforts.

I think that regarding future endeavors, the report by the deputies and the MICONS initial report indicate what path we should take. We should make intense efforts to solve quality problems, to promote scientific-technical developments in construction, and at the same time, we should not forget the essential task of saving resources such as cement, steel, and wood. As the commander in chief has said, especially in the case of wood, these resources could become a limiting factor to the entire construction effort being carried out by our country.

I think that regarding these fundamental aspects, we have to organize the construction workers in the brigades, contingents, and enterprises. We should organize all of the nation's construction workers so that we can all produce at the level that is being asked of us by the people, the Communist Party of Cuba, and Fidel. [end recording]

[Bares] The MICONS report to the ANPP was unanimously approved.

Further on MICONS Report

FL1807180789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The Fifth Regular Session of the Third National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] will continue today with the presentation of the reports from Ciego de Avila Province, the Supreme People's Tribunal, and the Attorney General's Office.

During yesterday's meeting, the report presented by the Ministry of Construction [MICONS] was discussed. The statements made during the discussion were multiple and varied; they touched on the deficiencies which still exist in the sector as well as on the achievements of the past few years.

[Begin recording] [Speaker No 1] I would like to discuss the influence the student's participation in construction work has had in their training, both on mid-level and higher-level students. They have contributed in the construction of social, economic, and military projects of the country. For several years now—especially since the emergence of a new impetus in the construction activities of our country, such as the creation of contingents, and the speed with which the projects have been completed—the university students and the mid-level students of the country have, throughout, been contributing greatly to these constructions. However, more than its economic importance, their contribution to these projects has been of great value in forming work habits in our students; and their contact with the construction collectives has been, undoubtedly, a very positive influence.

I would like to say to the ANPP that the University Students' Federation and the Intermediate Level Students' Federation [FEEM] have formed the 13th Festival student work brigades, which currently has 1,354 students working on construction activities. They are working in all the provinces of the country, and on the projects of highest priority. In the case of Havana City, 270 students are currently participating in the Pan-American Games projects; and tomorrow, another 200 will join in the construction of the Olympic Stadium and of the Pan-American Road. In Santiago de Cuba, university students and students who belong to the FEEM have been participating, for a week already, in the activities that are scheduled to be finished in time for the party's fourth congress. Therefore, we can proudly inform the assembly that Cuban intermediate level students and the university students are participating in the struggle of our construction workers for the recovery of construction levels in our country and for the development of our economy.

[Speaker No 2] It was analyzed that the three fundamental problems discussed at our ANPP have to do with the Ministry of Construction. We were discussing how we could support and contribute to the ANPP some elements which would help us face these problems. Some of the problems are: the situation of the construction materials, our buildings, and gutters, as our commander had pointed it out. So, our group of delegates arrived at one thought....[changes thought] Arrive at the National Assembly [word indistinct] our municipality has over 445 square km of sewer network and of drinking water. Because of its geographical position, there is a great demand [word indistinct]. So, we said: Well! I think the best thing that can be done is to analyze the following, continue working the way we are doing—including the support of the comrades in industry, construction—and to come up with some more resources for the [words indistinct]. We also said that, within the problems of construction, there is a great demand for materials. We were talking about problems, but we also thought about the following: We examined the fact that in 2 and ½ years our municipality, one out of 15 municipalities, has built 13 child care centers, has built the Miguel Enriquez Hospital. However, we are also currently building a special school and 500 housing units. How could there not be problems with materials? We are answering the great demands of the population. We cannot come to the National Assembly to talk about these problems. [sentence as heard] That is why, we, the delegates of the Diez de Octubre Municipality have come here with the decision to tell this assembly only one (?thing). We came to say: Fidel, order and prioritize, because we will fulfill whatever tasks you assign us. That is the only thing we wanted to say at the assembly in light of the problems and the solutions we must carry out in construction, which are what the population demands and what the people need. [end recording]

During the MICONS report to the ANPP, it was noted that the commander in chief's guidance for construction activities has been just.

[Begin Castro recording] I would say that even aesthetics left a lot to be desired. I am horrified when I see some buildings, 14 or 15 of them, with the staircases on the outside. I am horrified when I see 25 of them in one area, they all look alike. That has no aesthetics whatsoever. That was one of the reasons why I suggested the formation of the comprehensive development group for the city. That group has a very important mission: to assess the aesthetics of the city. Our city was starting to look like a group of big boxes all standing next to each other, and in a disorderly fashion. Having a beautiful city....[changes thought] In trying to be productive, we were doing a botched-up job, we were building ugly buildings. In an effort to save money, we would use prefabricated units which only had five or six models. It turns out that prefabricated units can have up to 20, 25, 30, or 40 variations. Therefore, while we were looking for productivity....[changes thought] I don't know what kind of productivity there was. I got tired of always asking how many apartments per man were built. There was a prefabricated unit fever going around; all the traditional methods of construction were forgotten. That is to say, we have suffered from all those vices, negative tendencies, and evils. I listened to the architects' representatives who are here; I listened to them carefully. They expressed their desire to help in the development and quality of the city. It is important that we think about all these aspects. We must think about the way in which to combine the prefabricated units with beauty. We must think about building in the traditional methods. I think that the minibrigades should pay a lot of attention to these ideas. [end recording]

Attorney General's Report Read

FL1807214389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] [Reporter Estrella Fresnillo] The 2d meeting of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] began this morning with the reading of the Attorney General's report back. The report showed first the behavior of [words indistinct] has dropped considerably to date this year. Our commander in chief made remarks on this important subject.

[Begin recording] [Fidel Castro] Can we categorically say that a drop in crime has occurred since November? This is, comparing crimes against crimes, say, after the depenalization was made. Has crime dropped since November of 1988? We have to clarify that one cannot speak of drop in crime in those cases in which the act was no longer considered a crime and was turned into something else. Can we assert this, if we compare acts with acts? We can ask the attorney general.

[Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, identified by caption] Pardon me.

[Castro] Yes.

[De la Cruz] Well, regarding crime in general since November.... [changes thought] For example, 17,568 crimes were committed in the entire country in November 1988. In December, crime dropped to 15,831; in January it dropped to 14,381; and it continued to drop in this way. A total of 85,861 crimes were committed in the entire country during the first 6 months of 1989.

[Castro] What was the monthly average?
[De la Cruz] An average of 14,310 crimes month.

[Castro] It has dropped from 18,000 to 14,000.
[De la Cruz] A monthly average of 16,700 crimes were committed during the second half of 1988.

[Castro] Which measures contributed the most to achieve this?
[De la Cruz] Well, we believe...

[Castro, interrupting] Measures were tightened.
[De la Cruz] Exactly.

[Castro] Measures against criminals were tightened. A war was waged against criminals who acted without restraint. Can this be said?
[De la Cruz] They did not act without restraint....

[Castro, interrupting] Almost.
[De la Cruz] Almost, but measures were tightened. Much more drastic measures were taken against crime.

[Castro] Of course.
[De la Cruz] Let's look at some crime figures you were asking about, Commander. For example, breaking and entering burglary [robo con fuerza]. This is an important crime, 7,002 breaking and entering burglaries were committed during the first half of 1989; 10,491 were committed during the second half of 1988; and 6,357 during the first half. The monthly average of breaking and entering burglaries during the entire 1988 was 1,403.

[Castro] We could say that the battle against crime is partly being won. Which measures do you recommend so that this trend can continue?
[De la Cruz] We believe we should continue with the same type of preventive and repressive measures that are currently in force. That is, to continue with the policy we are currently following.

[Castro] Fine. [end recording]

[Fresnillo] For its part, the Supreme Tribunal reported back this morning. The report referred to the results reached in the implementation of the new Penal Code. This has required a serious and through effort for its gradual implementation. The swiftness of all judicial processes has been another important working goal of the tribunals. It shown that not a single act has been left unpunished and that the weight of justice has fallen everywhere.

[Reporter Nestor Labrada] The document prepared by the ANPP Constitutional and Legal Committee noted to the Attorney General's Office the need to implement more efficient measures to eliminate [words indistinct] detected through state violations. The committee stated the high proportion of state violations detected during 1988, amounting to over 1.1 million, is of concern.

According to the analysis, it was recommended to the Attorney General's Office that, in future report backs, it provide more data on crime including its trends and the social and demographic traits of offenders, such as age, sex, and education level, as well as their social extraction. Also the Verification Committee recommended that the Attorney General's Office work to achieve the fulfillment of recommendations resulting from state inspections.

[Reporter Ileana Martinez] The committee considered as positive the set of guidelines pointed out by the Supreme Tribunal to guarantee a more adequate implementation of regulations established by the Penal Code. The offensive undertaken by the National Revolutionary Police and a more consistent implementation of the penal policy by the prosecution and tribunals are among the measures. This has enabled to initiate a drop in crime and behavior and acts that violate social discipline.

The Supreme Tribunal was recommended that it conduct a study for the next report back on those sanctioned and accused who have rebelled [declarados en rebeldia]. A recommendation was also made for the Supreme Tribunal to create the appropriate conditions so that correctional work, with or without imprisonment, is applied more consistently to supplement loss of freedom.

Numerous remarks were heard during the meeting as a result of the reports presented by the Attorney General's Office and the Supreme People's Tribunals. Views were expressed regarding the fair implementation of the Penal Code and the studies for the creation of new decrees on labor discipline in some areas of the economy and services. A lot of attention was paid to on the need to strictly enforce the law against those citizens who illegally acquire cattle by stealing it from state organizations and then kill the animals. The implementation of penal policies under the new Penal Code were explained in detail.

[Begin recording] [Castro] A drop of crimes has occurred. Does this mean that there has been an increase of prisoners? Who can answer this?

[Raul Amaro Salup, president of the Supreme People's Tribunal, identified by caption] Commander, if we take into account the size of the penal population when Law 62 became into effect—as you know, this was after the movement to release some 16,000 from prison on probation at the end of 1985 and the beginning of 1986 and the penal population dropped even more with the implementation of Law 62, the retroactive implementation of the law—the penal population has increased.

[Castro] This is logical. We cannot avoid this.
[Amaro] There is another true fact. We are looking at the level the penal population has maintained and we can say that the penal population is leveling off somewhat at this time.

[Castro] The principle that the true criminals are the ones who are placed in jail is being fulfilled.
[Amaro] This is the idea.

[Castro] An they are treated strictly.
[Amaro] We are not looking at the number of immates. Those who need to be in prison are in prison.

[Castro] Sometimes there are a little more than we would like.
[Amaro] Exactly.

[Castro] What the numbers should do is guarantee the people's peace of mind. This is why we shouldn't lose sleep over it as long as we apply the principle for those hard-core individuals, repeat offenders, the ones who are in prisons. The policy being followed is that a relatively unimportant first offense does not send an individual to jail. Is the depenalization inspired by this policy being followed?
[Amaro] This is goal that is being achieved. We have not set a figure regarding how large the penal population should be. It should be as large as necessary as long as it this principle and this goal that has been followed by the depenalization since it began in 1985 is fulfilled. [end recording]

The Ciego de Avila People's Government is reporting back to the Cuban Parliament at this time.

ANPP Concludes Meeting

FL1907015889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Report on the final session of the Fifth Regular Session of the Third National Assembly of the People's Government, ANPP]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting ANPP president] We now have the proposals for the next province and the next national organ to render accounts. There is a proposal that we will now present to you. If you please, Mr Secretary [Ernesto Suarez].

[Suarez] Comrades, with respect to the province, as you well know, we have already finished a complete circle since this practice was initiated in July 1982. To begin a new cycle, and considering that this could end up being beneficial to the activities this province has planned for the coming year, we make the proposal that Santiago de Cuba Province render accounts in December. [applause]

[Fidel Castro] I want to ask a something. Has the Isle of Youth already rendered its accounts?
[Suarez] Yes sir, in December.

[Castro] In December. So then the Isle of Youth has already gone by as a province. No, I was not going to oppose the Santiago nomination. I agree entirely with that proposal, but I thought that if [words indistinct].
[Aguirre] They have already rendered accounts. It is too soon for them to do so again. Comrades, do we agree with the nomination? [Video shows deputies raising their hands.] Very well. Is anyone opposed? [Video shows nobody raising hands.] Are there any abstentions? None.

[Suarez] Comrades, on the organ to render accounts, due to the effect this organ's actions has on the nation, we propose that the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry render accounts in December. [applause]

[Aguirre] Are there any counterproposals?

[Castro] Hey Severo, how are the proposals you guys make decided on? Do the two of you cook this stuff up and don't ask for anyone's opinion or what? [laughter]
[Aguirre] No, no, no, this has been counseled on.

[Castro] It has? At least I'm finding out about it here. [laughter]
[Aguirre] I thought you had already been told?

[Castro] No, no, I see.... [changes thought] I don't disagree, but I just wanted to know how this was done.
[Suarez] We told you about the province.

[Castro] I don't remember. [laughter] When was that? I agree with both proposals, they were good selections.

[Aguirre] There was the suggestion that since Santiago de Cuba has the congress coming up, we thought [words indistinct] would serve to urge Santiago in their tasks. So then, we still needed to decide on the national organ. Do you agree with the national organ?

[Castro] Yes, I agree. [laughter]

[Aguirre] The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry is the proposal. Is anyone opposed? None. Are there any abstentions? Nobody. Well then, we are finished.

[Castro] We are?
[Aguirre] Yes, we are.

[Castro] What do you know, we gained some 20 minutes.
[Aguirre] [laughs] Good. Until the next meeting comrades. [applause] [end recording]

Just as pleasant was the final session of the ANPP when, at Fidel's insistence, the provincial presidents of the People's Government in Pinar del Rio, Santiago de Cuba, Havana, and Havana City—after Ciego de Avila's rendering of accounts—reported on the progress of the economic and social development programs in their respective provinces. We can say that the results are notable when jointly

evaluating the projects in the nation. There is also tangible proof that the rectification of errors and negative tendencies process is yielding results with the active participation of workers and leaders.

Due to the high sense of criticism, which is the fundamental basis of the rectification process, Ciego de Avila rendered accounts today to the ANPP with a report that encompassed the province's general progress during the past 12 years, when Ciego de Avila emerged as a province when the political administration was divided.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] As has already been said, and is also our case, rendering account to the ANPP has given us the opportunity to review what we have done, summarize extensive information, and to notice what our everyday endeavors do not allow us to see—our people's achievements during these 30 years of revolution. [end recording]

The 7-chapter report and its 92-page final draft show, in great detail, Ciego de Avila's historical outline, the results of the province's economic programs, their main economic and social activities of national subordination, as well as local subordination, the functions of the local people's government organ, defense and internal order tasks, and the province's development possibilities.

This report emphasizes that it is not just enough to govern a province on behalf of the people; it states that if something important exists in this process, it is the need to find ways and adequate solutions for the economy's real possibilities. The Government of Ciego de Avila, in its 12 years of existence, is complying with this principle.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Comrade deputies, if these 30 years of revolution in Ciego de Avila represent great changes, the next 10 years will be a challenge to our development and the creative work of the people of Ciego de Avila. Perhaps our possibilities are defined now as never before and concretely try to achieve an impressive increase of benefits for the province and the nation. [end recording]

Afterward, the ANPP Commission of Local Organs, in its report, noted the achievements made by Ciego de Avila in agricultural projects, the ones dealing both with sugarcane and nonsugarcane activities, as well as the achievements of the fishing industry, especially aquaculture. They also noted the efforts the province is making to increase national and foreign tourism. The commission also noted the reduced rate of infant and maternal mortality, even though the number of doctors per inhabitant is still the lowest in the nation.

Some of the recommendations the commission made to Ciego de Avila Province are: guarantee, in as short a time as possible, an increase of sugar production until they produce a million tons; find a solution to the storing and moving of sugar and honey in a manner that avoids losses; and finishing Palo Alto Port. The commission also suggested that the province carry out measures to finish the family doctor program.

After debating the province's report and the commission's proposals, the deputies proceeded to vote on the approval of both.

[Begin Aguirre recording] We propose to the assembly that the political and mass organizations of Ciego de Avila, its government organs, administration, and especially the people of Ciego de Avila be congratulated. Do we agree? [applause] [end recording]

Internationalist Troops North of 15th Parallel

FL1907010789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] We have just received the following statement from the MINFAR [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces]:

In keeping with the agreements that were signed at UN Headquarters on 22 December 1988 between the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and the People's Republic of Angola on the termination of the Cuban military contingent's internationalist mission in Angola—and which also states that by 1 August 1989 the Cuban troops are to have moved north of the 15th parallel—it is being reported that as of 17 July 1989, the Cuban troops in the People's Republic of Angola are located north of the 15th parallel.

In this way, Cuba continues to strictly comply with the agreements that will lead to the peaceful solution of the conflict in southwest Africa, as well as to Namibia's independence.

The statement is signed by the MINFAR.

El Salvador

Minister Reports on 'Serious Economic Crisis'

PA1607005389 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] In presenting an Economy Ministry report yesterday, the new economy minister, Dr Rafael Alvarado Cano, said that 90 percent of the national budget has been earmarked to cover regular expenditures and to pay the debt. He said that cutting expenditures is closely linked to a reduction in public investments.

The report presented by Alvarado Cano dealt with the 1988-1989 fiscal year and referred to the serious economic crisis the country has been facing in recent months.

The minister noted the negative effect the past administration had on the economy and said that it discouraged private investments and private commercial activities, factors, he said, that exacerbate the inflation problem.

June Inflation Rate Increases

PA1407161489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Summary] According to a study conducted by various Salvadoran economists, June's inflation rate was the highest registered in El Salvador for the past 7 years. According to the study, the cost of staple products rose by 4.2 percent in June. The economists believe that the rise in inflation results from price speculation resulting from the Salvadoran Government's current economic policy. The experts concluded that to stabilize the inflation rate, the government must change the course of its economic policy and adapt it to the current situation in the country.

Rosa Chavez Questions New Government Attitude

PA1607230889 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Homily by Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez at the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador on 16 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Let us examine some of the week's events. In the Blue Room at the Legislative Assembly, reporting has begun on the work done by each ministry, work that was traditionally tedious and tiresome, but, according to newspaper reports, has taken a new turn. Previously, these reports were full of achievements—real or imagined, it does not matter; however, now it seems the intentions of the new ministers are to show that the previous government did everything wrong and that is why things cannot get underway now. Here we find a basic mistake—forgetting that everything was not done wrong during President Duarte's term and that everything will not be rosy with the new government. A popular saying for this type of attitude is: Everyone kicks a man when he is down. This, however, is not the way to reconcile the Salvadoran family. It is easy to imagine how hazardous it could be to adopt this sort of attitude to look into the question of dialogue, because this would inevitably lead us to conclude that everything done so far is also unimportant. Such logic would close the doors to different groups that are involved in finding peace.

Some of this week's events have helped us to be more receptive and see things more realistically. The entire world is celebrating the bicentennial of the French Revolution. This event lends itself to much discussion—the French Church remembers it as a painful test, but admits it had a purifying effect. It could be said that the best result of the French Revolution was the proclamation of man's three basic rights: liberty, equality, and brotherhood—which were already in Christ's Gospel.

If we are all brothers, if we are all equal, and with a right to be free, why then do we continue to put faith in the language of gunpowder, anonymity, coercion, and attacks against people and property? Property damage is not the most serious thing; rather, it is the inner crumbling, the loss of values, and man's inpoverishment that begins to close roads to our sensibility, wisdom, and the most basic of compassion. Most serious is that El Salvador's most skilled hands are being used to destroy coexistence instead building bridges that lead to the longed-for peace.

We just received at the archbishopric a letter from the High Command referring to reports Msgr Rivera y Damas made a week ago. To the information we had reported, unfortunately we have to add one more case: Hector Joaquin Miranda Marroquin, who was arrested in Apopa Jurisdiction lost his life due to the mistreatment he received. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front committed equally condemnable acts... [15-second break in reception] who was kidnapped while walking with his 12-year old daughter in Zaragoza Jurisdiction. Why must our children witness such cruel situations? [passage omitted]

Police Arrest Suspects Following Bomb Explosion

PA1607044889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1400 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Report by Manuel Isidro Gallardo from San Miguel Department]

[Text] At 2030 last night, a bomb exploded at a house on 504 South Second Avenue. Although the house's windows and doors were destroyed, there were no fatalities. After learning of the incident, the National Police searched the offices of the National Association of Agriculture and Livestock Workers, ANTA, and arrested 11 group members. The group's leader managed to escape.

The arrested men are: Jose Granados Villalobos, Felix Osin Machado Romero, Santos Porfirio Diaz, Jose Luis Castro Romero, Raul Alfredo Villacorta, Jose Antonio

Rojas Espinosa, Jose Pedro Medrano Diaz, Gilberto Flores Reyes, Luis Alonso Aleman Rosas, Lisando de Jesus Gutierrez, and Jose Gilberto Cruz Mata.

During the search of the ANTA offices, the police seized explosives and pamphlets and placards in support of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. The arrested persons said they come from strife-torn Chirilagua, Tinajeda, Sesori, (Rafaelena), Chilanga, and Chinameca. The authorities are now interrogating the ANTA members.

According to an official source, the police operation was carried out based on military intelligence regarding the unlawful activities of these persons.

FMLN Commander on Area Presidential Summit

PA1607024389 Paris AFP in Spanish
0142 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 Jul (AFP)—The Salvadoran guerrillas stated today in Panama City that the upcoming Central American presidential summit "could result in a setback if it links the pacification of Nicaragua to the disarmament of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)."

According to FMLN Commander Francisco Jovel, the summit—scheduled for 5, 6, and 7 August 1989—involves a "great risk" because Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani wants to restore "the policy of parallelism" between the Nicaraguan contras and the Salvadoran guerrillas and to impose that policy at the summit.

Jovel noted that the U.S. Administration has pressured "friendly governments" to "bring back the criteria of parallelism that had been buried in Costa del Sol," El Salvador, where the last presidential summit took place in February 1989.

In statements to AFP, Jovel said that the disbanding of the Nicaraguan rebels cannot be linked to the FMLN's disarmament "because the contras constitute a mercenary army stationed in Honduras and supported by the United States, and we come from the people and are in El Salvador."

"The FMLN stems from the people. The contras are militarily defeated and want to win at the negotiating table what they did not win in the war," Jovel said. The Permanent Committee for a National Debate for Peace in El Salvador gave FMLN Commander Jovel a proposal for the initiation of direct talks between the guerrillas and the Cristiani administration to attempt to end the war in this Central American country.

Jovel also rejected Cristiani's charges that Nicaragua is supplying weapons to the FMLN and asked that Cristiani present "evidence" to support his claims.

The rebel leader stated that most of the FMLN's weapons, such as the Soviet AK-47 rifles, explosives, grenades, and German RPG rocket launchers, "are bought from the contras or on the black market."

Regarding the demands for a dialogue that have been presented by several Salvadoran political organizations that make up the Permament Committee for a National Debate for Peace in El Salvador, Jovel said that Cristiani's "actions have not created the appropriate climate" to negotiate peace and that the president has proposed to hold "a dialogue without negotiation."

The rebel leader believes that since the rightists took power on 1 June 1989, the Salvadoran Army has taken control of the country and is implementing the partisan policy of "total war and submission to U.S. foreign policy."

Jovel, however, also called for "a direct dialogue between the conflicting parties" with the Church continuing to mediate, as "it must play an important role" in this dialogue.

In conclusion, the rebel commander stated that the FMLN "has never proposed turning in its weapons as the first step for negotiations," as Cristiani proposed, but has asked "for the war to be suspended."

FMLN Recent Rebel Activities Reported

Army Clashes Reported

PA1707043989

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2200 GMT on 16 July broadcasts a 5-minute report on recent fighting between Salvadoran Army Forces and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas.

The station begins by broadcasting a report sent by the western-based Feliciano Ama Front. The report indicates that rebel units attacked Civil Defense and 2nd Infantry Brigade units in El Carrizal Canton on 16 July, and inflicted five casualties on the government troops. The reports also note that additional 2nd Infantry Brigade soldiers had been sent from (Tucatan) to reinforce the attacked units at 0930. The FMLN men clashed with them on the road to El Carrizal and inflicted another casualty on the Armed Forces.

The radio continues with a Francisco Sanchez Front report of clashes in eastern El Salvador. It indicates that paratroopers were dropped in (Juantepeque) and LLano del Muerto at 0900 on 15 July. This operation was made by seven transport helicopters in four trips. The helicopters were backed by a [word indistinct] helicopter, two helicopter gunships, and a push-pull aircraft. Rebel units ambushed the paratrooper battalion in [word indistinct] in northern Perquin at 0700 on 16 July. The clashes took place between 0800 and 0900 and the rebel unit inflicted

three casualties on the paratrooper battalion. The report notes that two helicopters—a gunship and a [word indistinct]—arrived at the site to defend the attacked paratroopers at 0845 on 16 July. These aircraft launched rockets and machinegunned the mountainous area, which is densely populated by civilians. The rebels countered the helicopters' attack at 0930 and the helicopters reportedly left the combat zone in a hurry.

The Francisco Sanchez Front continues to report that its men attacked 4th military detachment positions in (Mejicala) between 0600 and 0700 on 16 July. These attacks took place on the turnoff road to Oscicala and the road to Gualococti. Other rebel units took the turnoff road to [words indistinct] on the highway to Aguas Zarca, and at [words indistinct] the rebels conducted political activities. The rebels reportedly inflicted 3 casualties to the Lenca Battalion during these operations.

The announcer then reports that clandestine militia units ambushed a Lempa Battalion unit that was moving from Ciudad Barrios to Chapeltique near the (Arena Canton) in San Miguel Department at 0700 on 15 July. In the ambush a Manuel Jose Arce mine was used; one soldier was killed and 2 were wounded, including a lieutenant and a radio operator.

Rebels Killed in Cuscatlan

PA1607040189 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Report by Gregorio Moran]

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] has reported that the Atlacatl Battalion clashed with Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas in El Salitre Canton, San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department. COPREFA reported at least two guerrillas were killed in the fighting. Moreover, Atlacatl Battalion soldiers also defused 12 booby traps found on the town's roads.

In addition, COPREFA reported the downing of four electricity towers. One was located on Molta Army Boulevard. Shrapnel from an explosion where a transformer was destroyed wounded an unidentified woman in the face. The woman was taken immediately to Rosales Hospital.

The other downed electricity towers were located outside the Sagrado Corazon neighborhood, Escalon area; outside Cuscatlan Park, Flor Blanca neighborhood; and on 75th South Avenue, General Escalon Drive. COPREFA also reported that two telephone centrals were destroyed recently in the area.

According to another report, Suchitoto residents have again asked top military authorities to withdraw the artillery in the city's San Martin Park to prevent possible harm to civilians. Students of the Ana Dolores Arias School and the local school group, parents, teachers, and members of the community said that the Army is firing 105-mm howitzers from the park. The residents say that this endangers the lives of students and passersby. They said military authorities ordered the removal of the howitzers as a result of their petition, but later brought them back.

Roundup of Actions 5-16 Jul

PA1707042789 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Here is our political and military roundup from 9 July to 15 July. We inflicted a total of 136 casualties on the enemy, including dead and wounded. The casualties include a lieutenant, a sublieutenant, a sergeant, a subsergeant, two unidentified section chiefs, one corporal, and one radio operator. The report on the military equipment destroyed during that week is as follows: one helicopter was damaged, two military vehicles were completely destroyed, and another military vehicle was partially destroyed.

We also seized ammunition and military equipment this week. We seized 3 M-16 rifles, 550 5.30 and 5.56 cartridges, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 9 grenades, [word indistinct] for an M-60 machinegun, and other military equipment.

We are also reporting that four ambushes were carried out, inflicting a casualty toll of 55. The ambushes took place on 9, 10, and 12 July. Concerning sabotage to the war economy of the death squad dictatorship, we sabotaged 17 electricity line structures, three telephone centers, and an Institute of Supply Regulation warehouse in Chalatenango. We also sabotaged a Salvadoran Armed Forces' building called Torre Democratica, and three soda delivery trucks.

On 13 July, a joint communique was issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command and the Permanent Committee for National Debate. These political activities fall within the framework of the search for a negotiated political solution and have the backing of all of the country's democratic and progressive forces.

Students also participated in this week's developments. Over 300 students of the National Agricultural School went on strike to demand the dismissal of that school's repressive officials. Also, 1200 Alberto Masferrer National Institute students were actively involved in trying to obtain the release of captured students. Moreover, municipal employees are in their 18th day of a firm and victorious strike. The workers' solidarity and unity have been successful one more time. We salute the struggle of the National Institute of Government Employees Pension's union members who obtained the release of Rigoberto Sanchez de Leon, snatching him from the claws of the Treasury Police that arrested him on 5 July.

* FMLN Members Describe Activities, Training

* Role in Ambush Described

32480161 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 16 May 89 p 17

[Text] An FPL-FMLN [People's Liberation Forces-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorist accused of participating in the ambush of a National Guard patrol on the 10th of this month at the Los Conejos turnoff from the highway between San Rafael Cedros and Ilobasco was turned over to the competent courts, that public security force has announced.

The defendant, identified as Manuel Francisco Rivas Pena (Paco), who is 17, was captured at about 11 am on the day of the ambush by soldiers of the Fifth Military Detachment and he was later taken to the central barracks of that unit where the pertinent investigation was to begin.

In an unofficial statement, Rivas Pena said he has been a militant in the FPL-FMLN since the middle of last year. He recounted, coldly and in detail, how the ambush of the National Guard vehicle was perpetrated. In the incident, two guardsmen were killed and the commander of the Third Infantry Headquarters of that body was wounded.

The official report adds that according to the testimony of Rivas Pena, he carried out this action together with terrorists known by the aliases "Juan Pineda," "Eduardo," and "Jehovanny." They used Russian made AK-47 rifles, various explosive artifacts, and also .45 caliber pistols during the ambush, the purpose of which was to stop any military reinforcement moving toward the Tejutepeque area, where terrorist elements had also harassed the National Guard base early in the morning of that same day.

Rivas Pena also said that on the night of 9 May, the four men set out from a camp the FPL and FAL [Armed Forces of Liberation] gangs had established in the Lomas de Pena canton in the Ilobasco jurisdiction of the department of Cabanas, under the command of the terrorists who use the aliases "Gallina" and "Gustavo." It is they who are in charge of the criminal actions and sabotage carried out in the zone, and they themselves directed the harassment of the National Guard base in Tejutepeque, he said in conclusion.

Manuel Francisco Rivas Pena, alias "Paco," was captured as he sought to mingle with the individuals approaching to try to help the wounded National Guardsmen. He was surprised by soldiers who noticed his suspicious movements. When they undertook to establish his identity and searched him, they found a .45 caliber pistol and a great deal of ammunition for that weapon and for the AK-47. These items were immediately confiscated and Rivas Pena was turned over to the Court of the First Instance in Ilobasco.

* Training in Cuba, Nicaragua

32480161 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 20 May 89 p 4

[Text] A statement issued by the National Police reported the arrest of two individuals, David Ernesto Murcia Orellana, and Jose Mauricio Gutierrez Avendano, charged with membership in the ERP-PRS [People's Revolutionary Army-Salvadoran Revolutionary Party] and the FAPL-FPL [Popular Armed Forces of Liberation-People's Liberation Forces], respectively. Prior to being turned over to the competent courts, it was reported, they described their clandestine activities in detail.

Murcia Orellana, alias "Ivan," was arrested on 12 May by personnel of the above-mentioned body, and he admitted unofficially that he belongs to the terrorist organization mentioned. He began his activities in 1982 while living in the Republic of Costa Rica, in the mass sector of that organization known as the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28). He later went to the Republic of Nicaragua, where he continued to be affiliated with that organization. Later, in 1983, he was sent to the Republic of Cuba for a documentation course, in which connection he worked with the National Information Committee (COMIN), the propaganda arm of the ERP, which has its headquarters in Nicaragua. The course covered the classification and falsification of documents, the manufacturing of rubber seals, metal engraving, and clandestine photography. Then, in 1985, he was sent to El Salvador and assigned the mission of preparing false personal identification for the combatants in the rural area. He added that he participated in the sabotaging of the electrical network in this capital city, and also worked in the political sector of the ERP.

Gutierrez Avendano, alias "Carlos," was captured by soldiers of the Cavalry Regiment on 10 May in the Las Moras hamlet and canton, in the jurisdiction of Colon, department of La Libertad, and was then turned over to this body. He stated unofficially that he committed the actions of which he was accused, was recruited by the D/T [expansion unknown] known as "Victor," and joined the organization in March of last year. He was instructed to participate in violent demonstrations sponsored by the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), with the task of providing the demonstrators with security. He was also instructed to destroy electrical poles on the Santa Ana-Ahuachapan highway, and he stated that he participated in the terrorist attack made on the premises of the National Police in Atiquizaya in February of this year, as well. At the time of his capture, a fragmentation grenade manufactured in the Soviet Union was confiscated from him, the report said.

* CTS, MOP Infiltrated

32480161 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 May 89 pp 3, 46

[Text] The National Police have captured an FARN [Armed Forces of National Resistance] terrorist who had

infiltrated the Ministry of Public Works [MOP] and the CTS [Salvadoran Workers Federation]. He had been assigned the task of organizing strikes and violent demonstrations.

This security force announced yesterday that the individual in question is Natividad de Jesus Ramos Hernandez, known in the ranks of the FARN by the alias "Ricardo." He was arrested at the civic plaza in this capital city while waiting to meet a "contact" to plan terrorist actions.

A police spokesman said that Ramos Hernandez, a combatant in the organization mentioned, had infiltrated the MOP as an employee, and had also joined the CTS, which is a front organization for the FDR-FMLN [Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

The spokesman said that the defendant's assignment at the ministry was to organize and plan all kinds of strikes, following instructions received from the FMLN. According to his own confession, the police source added, this individual organized violent demonstrations within the CTS for the purpose of provoking the authorities in order then to denounce "government repression" in an extravagant propaganda campaign.

Also, Ramos Hernandez reported to the FDR-FMLN on agreements made by other leaders of the union at the ministry, so that that communist organization could proceed to get rid of them.

Another of the men captured is Rafael Antonio Mejia Ascensio (Maco), who says he belongs to the Select Special Forces (FES) of the FMLN. In addition to reporting to the communist groups on Armed Forces movements, he also made purchases with a view to the manufacture of explosive artifacts, which he himself undertook to place at electrical network poles and towers.

In conclusion, the National Police announced that the defendants have been turned over to the competent courts.

* Regulations Hamper Construction Industry

32480163a San Salvador PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 May 89 pp 3, 35

[Text] The construction industry is currently providing jobs for more than 80,000 workers in direct fashion, Carlos H. Cromeyer, the president of the Salvadoran Chamber of the Construction Industry (CASALCO), stated yesterday.

In addition, he said that this industry contributes indirectly to the development of multiple economic activities and also creates jobs, for example in the cement industry, the plants producing flooring and construction brick and wall blocks, as well as the transportation industry.

In addition, he said that construction is a vital element in the building of housing to provide for the well-being of families, and that for this reason it should be encouraged. However, he noted that the complicated bureaucratic network is currently serving as a hindrance.

"The construction industry is boxed in by an ailment, a horrible excess of authorizations, because permits and bureaucratic procedures are required for everything."

He added that all of this is making it difficult to provide cheap housing for the people, and he said that an ultimate extreme in bureaucracy can be seen, for example, in the fact that before it will issue a certificate of tax exemption, the ANDA [National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers], requires that a tax exemption certificate be presented.

He said that there was formerly a single office for authorizations in the DUA [expansion unknown], but it no longer exists. Now it is necessary to seek authorizations in separate offices, thus delaying the development of projects to an incredible extent.

He said that many public officials have done nothing but complicate matters and slow this industry down with the establishment of regulations. He cited a certain "30-70 ratio," which has caused builders many problems.

He also said that the former president of the Central Reserve Bank, Alberto Benitez, had the "idea" of establishing a "presale" system for every project, in accordance with which builders had to have the sale of 75 percent of any project guaranteed in order to be able to obtain bank credit.

He said that this has meant that a builder must first go in search of buyers, while during all this time he is unable to launch his project, and meanwhile, inflation has increased housing costs.

He reiterated some ideas set forth recently denouncing the preference the present government has given to foreign construction enterprises, thus seriously damaging comparable businesses in El Salvador. This, he said, has been another factor hindering the development of this industry.

* UNOC, BFA Disagree on Credit Availability

* UNOC Decries Delays

32480163b San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 17 May 89 p 2

[Text] The National Worker-Peasant Union (UNOC) has asked the Agricultural Development Bank (BFA) to "abandon any further strangulation" of the cooperatives affiliated with that organization by means of poorly timed credit.

UNOC spokesmen told our staffers yesterday afternoon that they are truly concerned about the situation facing the cooperatives because of the difficulties these bodies are encountering in utilizing BFA credit.

In addition to their verbal statements, they handed over a news sheet entitled "UNOC Denounces Delays by the Banking System, and the BFA in Particular, in Approving and Paying Out Credit."

Its text reads as follows:

"UNOC, in response to serious requests from its members, is making public the following information. Beginning in December of last year, credit was approved for many cooperatives in a very prudent move. However, although it is now the end of May, it has not yet been possible to utilize the credit approved.

"The negative aspect lies in the fact that the banking agent of the BFA is now making this credit conditional upon measures which were not included in the approval agreements. Such attitudes are making the situation of the peasants, the farmers, and the cooperatives much more desperate. These burdensome conditions must be eliminated and credit procedures made more flexible.

"We must bear in mind that thus far, the winter season has been good, for which reason we demand that we be paid the credit sums to which we are entitled.

"We state clearly that there are just reasons for the delays at certain cooperatives. The fact is that we did not receive the credit on schedule, there have been natural phenomena, and prices for our products have been low. We know that two of these factors could be corrected through an honest, prompt credit policy and proper marketing.

"We ask that the BFA cease to oppress our cooperatives any longer with this untimely credit. Let it make a reality of what was stated in demagogic fashion in the advertising campaign which cost millions and guaranteed that "flexible and timely" credit would be granted. This credit is not adequate, nor does it provide full coverage, because it is the third week in May, and thousands of us farmers are still waiting for a positive response. It is the duty of the BFA to respond to this challenge from the agricultural sector managed by our cooperatives. Let it prevent new channels for social discontent or starvation from developing if the harvests do not make us self-sufficient.

"On behalf of our peasant sectors, we await an honest, just, and prompt response.

"We will not surrender what has been won."

* BFA: Credit Available

32480163b San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 20 May 89 p 2

[Text] The offices of the BFA [Agricultural Development Bank] have redoubled their efforts to implement the contracts and pay out the loan credit for the 1989-1990 farm cycle.

The arrival of the rainy season in full force has led to a heavy demand for financing, mainly from the small and average producers, with a view to the planting of basic grains and the cultivation of coffee.

The credit procedures are being carried out entirely normally in accordance with the plans for the 1989-1990 Success Plan, which was designed to provide timely credit in sufficient quantities, as agreed with the clients.

The heads of the branches in the western zone have reported that an average of 80 to 100 clients are being served every day, and that the demand intensified last week.

The services provided to BFA clients include the processing of applications, contracting (on a large scale), and payment of credit sums for the purchase of seeds, supplies, and agricultural tools.

These services correspond to the goals of the January-May 1989 Credit Plan that calls for the allocation of 22,985 loans which total 465.7 million colones for the financing of a total area of 119,867 manzanas, and, secondly, traditional export crops on a total of 33,192 manzanas.

This credit will benefit 60,054 families representing a total of 360,000 individuals.

BFA spokesmen said that in this way a response consistent with the policy of the farm sector and the economic and social policy of the central government is being provided.

* Intra-Church Political Divisions Discussed

32480163c San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 21 May 89 pp 4, 17

[Text] The division between the clergy and the higher church authorities who have devoted their efforts to politicizing their administration was confirmed yesterday by the respected priest Juan Leon Montoya.

From what has been learned, it is clear that the politicization of their ministry by some notable members of the upper clergy has led to the establishment of two groups. One rallies around the archbishop of San Salvador, Arturo Riveras Damas, and his auxiliary bishop, Gregorio Rosa Chavez, while the other is made up of bishops in the eastern and paracentral departments who disagree with the political line endorsed by the Archbishopric.

Reverend Montoya, who is 84, went so far as to say that it is not a question of groups, but rather that the entire clergy in the plains area is opposed to the line imposed by the current archbishop of San Salvador. However, the dissidents are maintaining disciplinary silence in order to avoid giving the parishioners the impression of a divided clergy.

In connection with the aid provided by Caritas, an international relief organization, our informant said that this is nothing new, since on numerous occasions the Armed Forces have intercepted loads of foodstuffs along the routes to the zones of conflict, which, on the pretext of being intended for the displaced persons camps, were being taken to the areas where the criminals in the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] are mobilizing.

He also recalled that on more than one occasion Riveras Damas has been harshly criticized for his total support of the political line originating with the Central American University (UCA), headed by the Jesuit Ignacio Ellacuria. However, Riveras would not listen, for which reason many priests have preferred to maintain their distance from him, according to Reverend Montoya.

Reverend Montoya mentioned an article he wrote which was published in the editorial pages of EL DIARIO DE HOY on 19 September 1976, under the headline "Dr Ignacio Ellacuria, S.J.—Please Leave El Salvador." He said that an effort was made at that time to bring suit against him, the argument being that he was encouraging divisiveness within the clergy. "I was accused of urging the authorities to remove the Jesuit Ellacuria," Reverend Montoya recalled, "when what I did was to ask him to leave the country, not suggesting that anyone expel him.

"Now we are suffering from the consequences of these predictions of mine," this priest said.

Taking up the subject of the departure of the disabled, Reverend Montoya said that "the best thing would have been not to let them depart, because this would be to tip the balance of justice toward a single sector—the criminals—while forgetting the children who have lost limbs, the soldiers crippled by the criminal mines of those in the FMLN-FDR, which are praised when they are described as tools of war by some ill-begotten Salvadorans or outsiders who want to establish a communist regime in our beloved fatherland."

This clergyman voiced the proviso that as a result of the report published by EL DIARIO DE HOY yesterday, "More than one servile individual will come out with statements denying what is in plain view."

Montoya was for many years the parish priest at the Church of La Merced in San Salvador, as well as in Ciudad Delgado, but his respect for the evangelical pastoral line won him pressure from the church hierarchy, which has kept him assigned to areas distant from the capital.

He was approached by journalists yesterday during the seventh anniversary ceremonies held by the Belloso Battalion in San Bartolo, which he serves as its chaplain.

Guatemala

Teachers on Hunger Strike; Statement Issued

PA1907043789 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 18 Jul 89 p 11

[By Rony Ivan Veliz]

[Text] Guatemala City—Teachers from several departments began a hunger strike at 1800 yesterday to pressure the government into granting them salary increases.

The hunger strikers issued a statement to the media: We are not trying to stage a political show much less a publicity gimmick, Adalberto Martinez, one of the hunger strikers explained.

"We are striking to make it clear that we blame the government of Vinicio Cerezo for any tragic outcome to this strike and for failing to heed the demands of the teachers, which are common knowlege.

They also expressed their appreciation for the presence of Red Cross doctors and medical aid personnel in protecting them from any reprisals that may be taken against them. This was stated by Efrain Hernandez of San Marcos, who identified the hunger strikers as Jose M. Dominguez of Huehuetenango; Jaime Victor Hugo Perez of Huehuetenango; Efrain Hernandez of Tiquisate; Walter Villacinde of San Marcos; Juan Francisco Cordova of Guatemala City; Mario Guillermo Munoz of Escuintla; and Adalberto Martinez of Guatemala City, who are staging this hunger strike to get the central government to meet their demands, the strikers explained to the media.

Guerrilla Attack Reported in Chimaltenango

PA1807020489 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] A group of armed men—presumably members of a guerrilla group—attacked Patzicia, Chimaltenango, alarming the residents in that sector.

The guerrilla attack took place around the village of (El Tamal), near (Chantil), where five peasants were killed last month, presumably by a guerrilla group.

Reports from this area, a conflict-prone region, state that traffic has been disrupted since Saturday night, apparently as a result of the action carried out by the suspected guerrillas at the 65 km point of the inter-American highway.

Meanwhile, according to an official army report, 35 individuals—described in the military bulletin as terrorist criminals—carried out the attack. The bulletin accuses them of pillaging and completely sacking a farm before heading toward Acatenango.

Troops of the Chimaltenango Military Unit are combing the area searching for the guerrillas, the Army's military concluded.

*** PDCN Proclaims Andrade Candidate**
32480175b Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Jun 89 pp 6, 107

[Text] In the presence of over 1,000 departmental and municipal leaders of the Democratic Party of National Cooperation (PDCN), Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran was proclaimed the party's presidential candidate in Quetzaltenango.

Special guests included the main leaders of the National Renovation Party; the Coordinator of Democratic Unity, headed by General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores; members of the Independent Social Democratic Movement; and representatives of various civic and political groups that support Andrade's candidacy.

PDCN national leader Rolando Rodriguez welcomed everyone on behalf of the party. He discussed the crisis of values in the political, economic, and social spheres, and the serious plight of the people. He expressed his willingness to make a serene and carefully thought-out choice with plenty of lead time, consulting the rank and file of that political organization.

He reached the conclusion that what is needed is a president who can take true responsibility for facing the national crisis, and that the most capable leader during these special times in our country is Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran.

The announcement of the PDCN's proclamation was made by Secretary General Rolando Baquiax, who summed up the party's ideological principles as: respect for human rights, free and knowing participation by the citizenry in the country's political life, balanced development of the economic sectors, and the promotion and strengthening of rural and urban organization within the democratic principles of cooperation as a model of comprehensive development, all within the context of our national identity.

In addition to explaining that the party's position in the ideological spectrum places it "within a nationalist democratic left, given that it is emerging as the current that wants to change the state of injustice that exists in our country," he urged Fernando Andrade to set a standard of greater honesty in public administration for the next government, to open up sources of employment for Guatemalans, and to show absolute respect for human values, promoting the development of men and women in the countryside and the city, especially among the poor.

In his first message as the preliminary presidential candidate of the PDCN, Fernando Andrade proclaimed himself a fervent supporter of the principles that guide that political organization: liberty, democracy, justice, peace, and full popular participation. He pledged to lead the movement to rescue the fatherland from the poverty that is overwhelming it.

He explained that he has already launched an intensive campaign in the interior of the Republic, and has learned that Guatemalans not only suffer from the prevailing poverty, unemployment, and crimes committed with impunity, but also from political violence. He promised to begin a crusade of national reconciliation to ensure that harmony and peaceful coexistence prevail.

He expressed his agreement with the principles of denunciation contained in the latest pastoral letter from the bishops of the Catholic Church of Guatemala, stating that the terrible mental, material, and political corruption that has been instituted by the men of the ruling party must be eliminated.

Andrade stated that he will enforce respect for the Constitution and the law, and will deal a final blow to the continuismo that has been practiced by those who have seized political power in Guatemala. He said he will fight to guarantee security for Guatemalans and to punish criminals; he will combat the high cost of living and will promote a free and open dialogue among businessmen, workers, and peasants. He pledged to promote health and education campaigns and to fight against deforestation. He will rectify errors and proceed immediately to rebuild Guatemala with practical solutions, he stated.

*** Police Abuse Raises Population's Concern**
33482016a Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 30 May 89 p A4

[Editorial by Allan R. Brewer-Carias: "Beware of the Police!"]

[Text] Police activity, besides being of the type that traditionally typifies the state, is perhaps the most important and essential of all those carried out by the society's political organization. The grounds for it lie in Article 43 of the Constitution, which stipulates:

"Everyone has the right to the free development of his personality, without limitations other than those derived from the rights of others and public and social order."

Hence, it is the purpose of police activity:

First, to reconcile the rights of individuals with one another, so that the exercise of rights by each individual does not harm the exercise of rights by others; and, second, more importantly, to reconcile the rights of individuals with the collective or general interest of the society, so that the exercise thereof by each individual will not harm the interests of all.

The task incumbent on the police authorities to whom the society has entrusted those delicate functions is therefore essential and extremely important to daily life.

To attain these goals it is obviously indispensable for those authorities to inspire confidence and to be a source of protection for the citizen. In a civilized society the policeman must be the "caretaker" of everyone, the "protector" of the citizens and their rights, and hence, the representative of the state's authority, to whom respect is due. In short, the policeman must be the official in whom one can and must trust blindly, because he represents a benevolent, impartial, and just authority who inspires security and protection, who will not act against the one seeking him for protection, and who, when a person's arrest must occur for reasons of public order, is also certain to respect the person arrested. As the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights (Law of 1978) declares: "Every person deprived of freedom shall be treated humanely and with due respect for the dignity inherent in the human being" (Art. 10).

Hence, it would be clearly inconceivable to think that a society could function normally if the policeman were a discriminatory, abusive, wicked, or depraved monster. There could not be any public security, peace of mind, wholesomeness, or morality, the protection of which the police are seeking, precisely, as an activity aimed at maintaining public order. In a strange situation such as that, no one could trust the police, and trust, in Spanish, means only "hoping in," "having confidence in," "counting on," "relying on," "putting oneself in the hands of," "throwing oneself into the arms of," "commending oneself to."

But here and now, in our country, there is happening what would be inconceivable in any civilized, democratic society. We are increasingly believing and trusting less in the police, and the latest news in the press, besides evoking anger, has prompted us, with full responsibility, to have to recommend to the citizens that they beware of the police most of all. As an example to warrant this absurd recommendation, the two tragedies recently reported by the press, which we must recall, will suffice: First, a young woman is assaulted and left beaten, at night, in the street; she calls for help and a trusted neighbor summons the police; a patrol arrives to "help"; they pick up the young woman, take her to the El Recreao headquarters, and there rape and humiliate her. No one in his right mind could understand such torture committed in the name of authority! Second, three foreigners try to travel to the interior by bus. At the bus terminal a policeman stops them, presumes that their passports are forged, detains them, and harasses and abuses them at will. Unquestionably, neither they nor anyone in his right mind could understand this outrage, also committed in the name of the police, either!

How embarrassing to have to recommend that foreigners who have a notion to visit our country should beware of the police most of all! What an absurd tragedy to have to recommend that our children beware of the police! In this case, generalization is necessary. It suffices that a single policeman commit such an outrage for us to have to mistrust the entire corps, because according to the "law of large numbers" there would be another policeman who was a social misfit, ready to attack. So, beware of the police, while the state's reformers, surely misfits also, concern themselves merely with political reforms in which no one believes any longer, instead of considering the protection of human dignity by making the police a trustworthy corps.

Honduras

U.S. Participation in Esquipulas II Examined

PA1807232589 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Jul 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Esquipulas II and the Big Powers' Wills"]

[Text] In a world like ours, in which propaganda has acquired official status as the truth and political manipulations do away with reality, U.S. policy makes it very difficult to devote attention to finding a solution to the Central American conflict on a genuinely democratic basis for the good of our people.

Bernard Aronson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, recently visited area countries, with the exception of Nicaragua. There is no doubt that he concerned himself particularly with the contras and the Salvadoran guerrillas, now that a Central American presidents summit will be held during the 1st week of August.

The policy of Aronson and the Bush administration is still the same. They proclaim support for Esquipulas II and say they hope the agreements can be fulfilled, but on the premise that the Sandinists are the only ones who should obey the agreement.

This propaganda logic is truly admirable. Aronson said in San Salvador that Nicaragua, according to Esquipulas, should abide by "the prohibition against using its territory to subvert neighboring states," as if this prohibition could exclude other states, such as the United States and the Soviet Union.

As for an end to the aid for irregular forces or rebel movements, the Esquipulas II agreement establishes that "the governments of the five Central American states will ask regional and extraregional governments that openly or secretly provide weapons, ammunition, or

equipment; or military, logistical, financial, propagandistic, or human support for irregular forces or rebel movements, to end that aid as an essential element toward achieving stable and lasting peace in the region.

Paragraph 6 of the Esquipulas II Agreement says: "The five signatories reiterate their commitment to preventing the use of their territories and reiterate their commitment not to give or allow logistical or military support for people, organizations, or groups that intend to destabilize other Central American governments."

There is no doubt that the basic elements needed for those capital commitments to become a beautiful reality are the willingness and the good disposition of the United States and the Soviet Union. While the contra movement should be dismantled, Nicaragua must stop receiving war supplies that exceed what it needs for its internal defense.

An EFE report datelined Moscow on 16 July and published by a local newspaper on 17 July says that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze personally told Costa Rican Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Rivera Bianchini that the Soviet Union will continue to apply its unilateral moratorium concerning weapons supplies to Nicaragua as a way to contribute toward fulfilling the Esquipulas II agreement and the Central American peace process.

That is a very important point, because up until now the onsite verification of the aforementioned commitments has been bogged down. At first, an International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS) was in charge of the verification process, but recently the area governments asked the United Nations to send a team of UN observers to conduct verification and observation.

By introducing—at the last minute and in complete disregard of all diplomatic seriousness—a reservation in the El Salvador agreement, which included the request for a UN verification team, the Honduran Government halted the process. No one ignores the true reasons why Honduras played that trick.

Thus, the problem is that the contra presence in Honduras is, on the one hand, support for the Honduran military's argument that the foreign enemy needs to justify its military expenses and application of its national security doctrine, while, on the other hand, that presence is the way through which the U.S. Government prevents a contra stampede. To prevent that stampede, the United States must keep the contras in Honduras and it must get them involved in frequent operations to avoid the problems that an en masse contra immigration to the United States would create.

Finance Minister Comments on Upcoming Loans

PA1807234489 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Interview with Finance and Public Credit Minister Carlos Falck by Lorena Melhem; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Falck] We went to Washington to continue the dialogue and, within this context, we went over the figures of our fiscal deficit, revenues, expenses, trade balance, and the amounts owed to the IMF, World Bank, IDB [Inter-American Development Bank], and other organizations. We told the IDB officials that we have been negotiating a stop-gap loan with Venezuela and the loan is almost ready. This will allow us to pay the IDB and continue our programs with the bank because these programs are important for the country.

Following our meetings with several IDB officials, including the vice president, it was agreed that they would continue to review the figures and give us a call, probably later on this week. We will then continue our talks and try to reach an agreement with the organization.

[Melhem] Does this mean that you are not yet satisfied with the measures proposed by international organizations to sign an agreement?

[Falck] It is not a matter of being satisfied or not. The problem is that a letter of intent encompasses many issues and... [changes thought] I already explained that some of these issues are included in the measures taken by the Central Bank of Honduras [BCH] 2 weeks ago. This includes the CETRAS [Transferable Certificate for Access to Foreign Exchange] measure, that is, issuing CETRAS only to finance imports for the production sector, thus preventing the CETRAS from being used to import luxury items. The measures also stipulate which raw materials or basic products would be directly financed by the BCH. The measures also include other controls, and we have also reviewed other types of measures. We will continue the dialogue within this context.

[Melhem] Does this mean that the National Congress will soon announce new fiscal measures?

[Falck] Not necessarily. You know that the measures we have taken so far do not involve fiscal changes.

[Melhem] Did they [creditor banks] demand any fiscal measures?

[Falck] Yes, fiscal measures were among their demands, but, like I said, Honduras does not necessarily have to accept the demands of the IMF or any other international organization. Honduras has its own position and we think that, for the time being, there is no need for fiscal measures.

[Melhem] What about U.S. AID [Agency for International Development] assistance for the trade balance?

[Falck] Like I said, we have always signed agreements with the AID based on a program for structural reforms and a monetary program approved by the BCH. You know that the program was recently approved, and we went to Washington to talk with the international financial organizations. This week we will talk with the AID to reach a consensus, sign the agreement, and begin the disbursements.

[Melhem] Are the disbursements tied to Honduras' signing an agreement with international credit organizations?

[Falck] Honduras has never agreed that the AID disbursements should be tied to our signing an agreement with the IMF because we have always had a separate arrangement with the AID for its disbursements.

[Melhem] The U.S. Congress has already approved the aid. What causes the delay?

[Falck] The U.S. Congress always approves the aid in general terms. The delay is caused by the fact that the Honduran Government and the AID have yet to sign the appropriate agreement to begin the disbursements.

[Melhem] Is it true that certain measures adopted by the National Congress have increased the fiscal deficit?

[Falck] Any measure that involves a disbursement of funds without having the corresponding countermeasure, which implies an increase in revenues to compensate for the use of those funds, will naturally increase the fiscal deficit.

[Melhem] So, the National Congress has increased the fiscal deficit.

[Falck] Many of these measures will naturally increase the fiscal deficit if the corresponding countermeasures are not taken to increase the revenues, thus covering the approved disbursements.

[Melhem] Has the National Congress taken any measures to increase its revenues?

[Falck] Not yet.

[Melhem] Does this mean that the National Congress is not cooperating with the Executive Branch?

[Falck] I would not put it that way. The fact is that certain needs sometimes arise and the National Congress has to respond by approving these kinds of measures. I think that the National Congress should be more careful when analyzing requests, especially when they involve disbursements, because this increases the fiscal deficit.

[Melhem] Is this at odds with the international organizations' position?

[Falck] Well, to a certain extent. The fact is that the gap will increase if disbursements increase and revenues remain unchanged.

[Melhem] Does this mean that the signing of the letter of intent with these organizations will take some time?

[Falck] No, no, no, it does not. Like I said, it all depends on our current negotiations with them.

[Melhem] Doctor, perhaps the most difficult measure has yet to be taken. The National Congress has to adopt the fiscal measures and a lot of political interests are at stake.

[Falck] Well, it all depends on how you see things and the type measures that must be taken at a given time. I believe that this type of measure must be taken sooner or later, but it will depend on our talks or agreements with international organizations and the internal situation at the time.

FAO To Donate $20 Million for Agriculture

PA1807225389 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Jul 89 p 13

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa—Fernando Canchon Avellaneda, UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) new representative, announced on 17 July that the FAO has earmarked $20 million in nonreimbursable financial aid to Honduras for the next 2 years.

Canchon met with President Jose Azcona to present the FAO 1990-1991 projects and programs for Honduras. These projects stress basic grain production, agrarian reform support, and water basin protection. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

No Major Announcements Planned for 19 July

PA1807201589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1940 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Summary From Poor Reception] President Ortega has said that "10 years of revolution reassert the people's resolve to achieve peace." He said no big announcements should be expected tomorrow on the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist victory, adding that "what will be big will be the people's presence on the streets."

Ortega Comments on Lawsuit, Expelling Contras
PA1807212389 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 18 Jul 89 p 18

[Report by Eduardo Maldonado]

[Text] After following him for 2 days, from Managua to Esteli and from Managua to Leon—a tour that covered approximately 300 km—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra decided to answer five questions for EL HERALDO.

To be granted an interview with the commander of the Sandinist revolution requires a number of preliminary bureaucratic procedures. One must first be accredited to the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency in Managua, where a journalist is issued a card that costs $25.

However, one does not easily obtain the card. This involves spending a entire day filling out a form that asks the most minute details. Later, one must fill an application on which the journalist is told to indicate which government officials he wants to interview.

The request seldom gets a reply; one must insist to get one. Nevertheless, the journalist must first undergo a number of investigations by State Security to get this far.

If the journalist is given hope, he is never told where the interview will take place. One must simply follow Commander Ortega around because, when you least expect it, he decides to talk—but not for an exclusive interview. He talks in front of a group of news media representatives.

Things are different in Honduras. President Jose Azcona Hoyo is very cooperative with the media, particularly when it involves foreign journalists—who are even allowed into his office. Our colleagues in Managua say this is how the Interior Ministry handles interviews with President Ortega, upon instructions from the current security authorities, who think everyone is out to kill their president.

EL HERALDO's lawyer, Rigoberto Espinal Irias; photographer, Alejandro Serrano; and journalist, Eduardo Maldonado, had to travel to Leon—where Daniel Ortega was handing out land titles to peasant groups—for the interview.

Following him involved watching a motorcade of more than 20 automobiles, all full of men armed to the teeth, who represent part of the vast security system assigned to the president when he travels throughout the country.

The Sandinist creme de la creme had gathered there: Commanders Tomas Borge, Jaime Wheelock, Dora Maria Tellez, Leticia Herrera, and Lenin Cerna, among others.

Important now is to learn about the statements by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, who—among other things—believes that the Honduran and Nicaraguan people want war, not peace. [Maldonado] Has the Sandinist revolution been a success or a failure after 10 years?

[Ortega] The revolution has had great success. This is confirmed by the very existence of the revolution 10 years later, despite the United States' policy of war designed to destroy the revolution. In other words, that the revolution has been implemented represents the best expression of the Nicaraguan people's will to be firm. We have had successes in the social, cultural, and education sectors. I believe that Nicaragua is still strong despite great economic problems. Now the peasant manages to obtain small benefits despite an economy that has deteriorated.

[Maldonado] Will Nicaragua withdraw the lawsuit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] in The Hague?

[Ortega] We cannot contemplate withdrawing the lawsuit given that that Nicaragua filed it because international laws were violated and are still being violated in that the contras remain in Honduran territory. I have told President Jose Azcona Hoyo—and I sent him a message through Colonel Mario Maldonado, the Honduran ambassador to Nicaragua—to evict the contras from Honduras. Then we can find a formula to overcome the complex situation created by the United States' interventionist policy. We can also adopt security agreements between the two states without giving up the use of the ICJ. We cannot give it up because it would be tantamount to saying that we will not resort to the judge and that we opt for a fight—meaning war. That would be absurd and would represent a step backwards. We must defend and respect international laws; we must defend the judge, in this case the ICJ.

[Maldonado] Is there any tension between Nicaragua and Honduras?

[Ortega] There is U.S.-created tension. There is tension between the United States and Latin America; between that country and Nicaragua. The United States has used Honduras to send mercenaries to wage war against Nicaragua. Needless to say, tension is created between Nicaragua and Honduras. I am sure that the Honduran Government, President Jose Azcona Hoyo, and the Honduran Armed Forces do not want this tension to exist.

[Maldonado] Mr Ortega, do you support the statements of Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto that Honduras is a "narcostate?"

[Ortega] That is an exaggeration; Foreign Minister d'Escoto did not say that. The media distorts statements at will. What he indeed said is that drug trafficking is

rapidly growing in Central America and that Armed Forces officers, government officials, and individuals of various economic and social segments are being linked to it. Because of this, at the Central American presidential summit in El Salvador, we proposed the establishment of a verification mechanism to control drug trafficking, because drugs are coming from the South, are being smuggled through Central America, and are being consumed in the North, that is, in the United States. It is important that, we, Central Americans, take the proper steps to protect ourselves against this kind of crime. Governments must also take proper steps, because we face a curious and hypocritical attitude on the part of the United States. That country claims to be fighting against this kind of activity, while it uses drug traffickers to supply arms for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. This has been confirmed. We have not said this; there are reports confirming it. What has the Yankee Government done against this? Nothing. It has buried the issue while trying to appear as the great defender of U.S. youths who are victims of drug addiction.

[Maldonado] What is your message for the "contras," who are presumably in Honduras?

[Ortega] I have a message for the Honduran people: The Honduran people are a fraternal people. There are some Nicaraguans here. (Ortega addresses the dozens of sympathizers gathered around him) Let us ask: Are we not brothers of the Honduran people? (The sympathizers answer yes) Do we want to wage a war against the Honduran people? (Sympathizers answer no) Do we want peace with the Honduran people? (Sympathizers answer yes) That is my message to the Honduran people and for the "contras," too. If the Honduran Government and Army are not strong enough to eject the "contras," the people will.

Latin America Urged To Demand New U.S. Policy

PA1807143189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1250 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] During yesterday's opening of the Democracy and Revolution Symposium at the Olof Palme Convention Center, President Daniel Ortega called on all Latin American countries to close ranks and follow a joint strategy to demand that the United States adopt a new policy toward the developing countries and respect the Nicaraguan people's determination to continue defending peace and democracy. Representatives of [words indistinct] more than 20 countries are attending this international symposium. Yesterday's meeting was presided over by President Daniel Ortega and Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano.

During his speech, President Ortega evaluated the political and economic situation of the Latin American and developing countries. President Ortega criticized U.S. President George Bush, (?who says) he wants to help build democracy in Latin America but does not worry about helping to solve this continent's problems.

[Begin Ortega recording in progress] ...force the United States. Today, it is Latin America's duty to close ranks, not only to solve the economic problems affecting the Latin American countries, but also to draft a common strategy to (?confront) the United States and demand a new policy that will give the developing countries their rightful position in the world's economy. [Words indistinct] continue to defend independence and self-determination so that the peoples can achieve peace and democracy. We must close ranks to demand our rightful position in the world's economy, respect for international laws, and peaceful solutions to problems. This is the Nicaraguan people's position; this is the Nicaraguan revolution's position; this is what we have been struggling for these past 10 years; this is what we have shed so much blood for.

We know we are not waging this battle alone. We have the solidarity of thousands of men and women who have, in heart and soul, [word indistinct] with the Nicaraguan people. Thank you. [end recording]

President Ortega also praised the progress made by the Sandinist People's Revolution in the development of popular democracy, agrarian reform, education, and the labor movement. Speaking before more than 1,000 participants and guests, Ortega recalled the days when many Latin American countries were U.S. colonies and the type of democracy the United States imposed on these countries, a democracy in which the workers did not participate. Ortega added that more than 150 years ago, the imperialists considered the liberals and conservatives as good parties because they allowed domination. Ortega said that since the triumph of the revolution, Nicaragua can be described as a country where there is more democracy than in any other Latin American country or even in the United States.

President Ortega also said we must unite to demand that Washington respect the law. He said some European and Latin American countries had asked Nicaragua to refrain from demanding that Washington respect the International Court of Justice [ICJ] ruling. Ortega added that contrary to the position of those governments, all countries must demand that the White House respect international laws and the ICJ ruling.

Opposition Groups Meet in Guatemala

PA1807035489 Paris AFP in Spanish 2238 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Jul (AFP)—Nicaraguan opposition sources reported in Guatemala today that the contras would be willing to come to agreement with the Nicaraguan Government on conditions for demobilization and repatriation of their forces in Honduras if the Daniel Ortega regime meets the demands of the National Opposition Unity (UNO).

The political-military opposition to the Sandinist government today decided to participate in the general elections on 25 February 1990, but only if the elections are held "under conditions of freedom, honesty, and efficiency, something that is not the case now."

In a news conference held today in a luxury hotel in Guatemala City, leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) and UNO stated that they "share the objectives of democracy and reconstruction for Nicaragua, as well as putting an end to the war and establishing a firm and lasting peace."

RN leader Adolfo Calero said that if UNO's demands are met, the RN "is willing to come to agreement with the Sandinist government on conditions for the program of voluntary demobilization, repatriation, and relocation of our members and their relatives."

He explained that the RN would undertake this negotiation through a high-ranking political-military delegation, and for this purpose it will propose to the Central American presidents—who will meet on 5-7 August in the port of Tela in Honduras—an initial date to "implement the agreed upon program."

UNO and RN representatives expressed support for a national dialogue, a dialogue that President Ortega finally accepted and that should be "held immediately to establish political and electoral guarantees that permit free, honest, and effective elections."

Eli Altamirano of the Nicaraguan Communist Party said: "The Nicaraguan people hope that the national dialogue will be successful because, if it is not, there will be no peace in Nicaragua."

Altamirano, sitting between Calero and Enrique Bermudez, two of the top anti-Sandinist rebel leaders, added: "After the national dialogue, we will be able to tell if there are or are not conditions for participating in the elections.

Bermudez, top military chief of the Nicaraguan contras, stressed: "These conditions are needed to put an end to the disastrous state Nicaragua is in."

The RN reaffirmed "its promise not to carry out offensive military actions or any other activity that may hinder the electoral process" and again rejected the "Sandinist government accusations that the RN is not keeping its promise," Bermudez noted.

Roberto Ferrey, another participant in the meeting, which began in Guatemala City this weekend, said: "This is a message for the Central American presidents," he continued, "Nicaraguans are united and RN opinion must be taken into consideration whenever any decision on contra demobilization is going to be made."

The Sandinist opponents are demanding a "just and balanced" electoral council and said that the government has "only formally complied with electoral and media reforms, without giving true guarantees for fair participation to all the parties."

During the news conference, several UNO leaders emphasized: "UNO is prepared to defeat the Sandinists in the elections and we will do it."

An RN spokesman told AFP that his organization will continue to hold meetings with UNO representatives and announced that the next meeting could be held in Nicaraguan territory.

Opposition Leader on Demands

PA1807220089 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Interview with Luis Sanchez Sancho, member of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party Political Commission, by Roberto Sanchez; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Roberto Sanchez] Mr Sanchez Sancho, we would like to know whether you have been invited to participate in a national dialogue.

[Sanchez Sancho] The truth is that since the public announcement was made by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in Costa Rica, when he said he was willing to sit down and talk with the opposition to discuss and reach an agreement regarding the electoral process, we have heard nothing official. It is customary for the Sandinists... [changes thought] Perhaps tomorrow, when they commemorate the 10th anniversary of being in power, they will announce something specific regarding when the national dialogue will be held.

Meanwhile, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to inform the Nicaraguan people that the National Opposition Unity [UNO], through its negotiating commission, is ready to present its just and specific demands. We are ready to make some legal demands and request guarantees for the opposition in the electoral process. We also have some political demands like the amnesty, an end to conscription, and the abolition of repressive laws that do not contribute to the creation of a favorable climate for really clean and free elections in Nicaragua.

[Roberto Sanchez] The idea of a national dialogue is gaining strength and is being described as necessary in the search for solutions to the deadlock that has developed in the electoral process and in the demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance. What is your opinion?

[Sanchez Sancho] There is no doubt about this. The most prominent, competent, moral, and responsible persons—like the representatives of the Catholic Church through His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and the more sensible and patriotic political parties that make up the

UNO, and the international community—have systematically demanded a real national dialogue that will result in the necessary guarantees to make the Nicaraguan electoral process a true instrument of participation and democratization. Now that we are on the threshold of such an important event, we hope that the government will not attempt to manipulate it to its own advantage as it has done in the past. We must begin the dialogue with a truly patriotic and democratic spirit, convinced that truly free and clean elections in Nicaragua will be advantageous for the government as well as the opposition. It would undoubtedly be advantageous for Nicaragua. It would open the way for the definite exclusion of all violent, military, and destructive options and reaffirm, in a civilized manner, that the Nicaraguan people not only have the right to vote but also to choose, thus reaffirming a process of real democracy in Nicaragua.

[Roberto Sanchez] How can the national dialogue lead to the realization of the opposition's demands?

[Sanchez Sancho] A dialogue alone does not represent much. It is important because it provides the setting for adversaries to sit down and talk and iron out their differences in a civilized and mature manner. What is important is the Sandinist government's willingness to reach agreements with the opposition; its willingness to meet the legal demands we have made on several occasions, like a reorganization of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]; offering guarantees; effective control and supervision of the whole electoral organization—from the vote counting centers to the CSE; and equal rights for the media, especially television, which remains off limits for the opposition while the government is abusing its monopoly of this media. We also demand political guarantees. As I mentioned earlier, these are important because they include an amnesty; an end to conscription, which is an outrage against our youth—we must remember that half the country's population is affected by this; and abolition of repressive laws. That is what is important.

There is a willingness on the part of the international democratic community and the opposition, but what we need is for this willingness to be complemented by the government's common sense; for the government to be willing to reach agreements, because we are not making unreasonable demands. These are basic things in any democratic country. These are routine demands.

[Roberto Sanchez] Sanchez Sancho, thank you for your statement.

Obando y Bravo Criticizes Politicians, Contras

PA1707160389 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] During his Sunday homily at La Sierrita church in Santo Domingo, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said: Our hearts have become hardened. The cardinal lashed out at opposition politicians and asked them not to use a large ladle to serve themselves.

Without mentioning specific names or parties, Obando y Bravo referred to what the country's politicians should not do. They should not try to promote themselves, he said, but should serve their fellow men as good samaritans.

He also referred to the death of 6 civilians in Camoapa when contras attacked a rural passenger bus, an incident in which 15 others were wounded. We have seen so much blood and so many deaths that our hearts have become hardened [words indistinct], Obando y Bravo said.

OAS Election Observers To Visit 'Periodically'

PA1507235689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Washington—A delegation of OAS election observers will visit Nicaragua periodically as of 1 August, OAS sources have reported. At the invitation of the Nicaraguan Supreme Electoral Council, United Nations and European Parliament election observers will visit Managua prior to the 25 February 1990 presidential elections. The OAS sources said the first group of observers will be made up of 18 top officials, who will stay in the country from 1 to 21 August. The group will not include Nicaraguans or U.S. citizens. For the sake of objectivity, the persons in charge will also try to avoid including citizens from other Central American countries among the observers, the sources said.

Humberto Ortega's Driver Defects to Costa Rica

PA1607012289 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Jul 89 p 10-A

[Article by Rodrigo Peralta G.]

[Text] The Public Security Ministry yesterday reported that Lieutenant Carlos Felipe Carrion Cano, driver and bodyguard of Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, deserted and turned himself in to Costa Rican police on 8 July.

Thirty-year old Carrion Cano, who is being held at the National Security and Intelligence Directorate (DIS), told DIS agents that he escaped from La Granja Prison in Managua after becoming a victim of Sandinist persecution.

This is the fourth time in 15 days that an officer of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) has escaped to request political asylum in our country.

Public Security Ministry spokesman Carlos Jimenez Guillen explained that after escaping from jail, Carrion Cano went to civil guardsmen on duty at the Penas Blancas border post and asked them for asylum.

It was learned that the fugitive told DIS agents that he was imprisoned at La Granja on 6 April and was held incommunicado for 8 days.

According to a police report, Carrion Cano said that he was incarcerated because of a letter his mother—whose name was not disclosed—sent him from the United States, where she lives.

According to reports obtained by this newspaper, the Sandinists intercepted the letter and read it without Carrion Cano's consent. Apparently, his mother asked him to come live with her in the United States. This is why the EPS decided to imprison him.

Jimenez Guillen said that Carrion Cano escaped from La Granja on 28 April and that through "certain contacts" he was able to make it to Rivas. In Rivas, he obtained a forged permit to enter Costa Rica for a few hours, where he turned himself in.

The Public Security Ministry confirmed that Carrion Cano was initially trained in Cuba and then on Rugen Binz Island in the GDR.

According to DIS reports, Carrion Cano entered the EPS early in February 1982 when he was recruited into the Chichigalpa Infantry Brigade. After taking several military courses, he was sent to East Germany. He returned to Nicaragua and was assigned as Humberto Ortega's personal bodyguard and driver.

Brothers Douglas and Walter Zuniga Salazar, a major and a lieutenant of the EPS respectively, fled to Costa Rica on 23 June, along with three relatives. Three days later, on 26 June, Lieutenant Dorian Otoniel Alvarado Perez also deserted.

All of them entered through Penas Blancas and asked for political asylum.

Vietnamese Official Arrives in Managua

BK1907090189 Hanoi VNA in English 0551 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 19—Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, State Council president and head of a Vietnamese delegation, arrived in Managua on July 17 for a visit to Nicaragua and for the celebration of its 10th liberation day (July 19).

The Vietnamese president and his party were welcomed on their arrival by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, vice-president of the Republic of Nicaragua; Commander Letisia Herrera, member of the Central Committee of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and vice-chairman of the National Assembly, and other Nicaraguan senior officials.

Speaking at the welcome party, Vice-President Sergio Ramirez Mercado said that the visit of President Vo Chi Cong would further promote the close militant solidarity and fraternal friendship between Nicaragua and Vietnam.

In his reply, Vo Chi Cong expressed his pleasure to visit Nicaragua during the celebration of its liberation day, and wished the Nicaraguan people, under the leadership of the FSLN, still greater successes in their national construction and defense.

The same day, President Vo Chi Cong laid a wreath at the monument to Carlos Fonseca Amando, and made an entry in the visitors' book, praising the late Nicaraguan leader as a staunch fighter for the national independence movement, and a founder and architect of the FSLN's revolutionary strategy.

Panama

Noriega Attends Ceremony of Retiring Officers

PA1807180489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1549 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, at a ceremony to decorate retiring military officers at the headquarters of the 2d Infantry Company in Tocumen—live]

[Text] Mr President, members of the cabinet, distinguished military attaches who represent fraternal nations and who accompany us here today, distinguished ladies, distinguished guests, members of the General Staff, members of the 2d Company, the Pumas of Tocumen:

Today's ceremony is being held within the framework of the normal development and operations of an armed forces in which the general order of the day calls for appointments, transfers, illnesses, promotions, and retirements. That is the law of life. We are all part of this life. We must all enter, and we must all leave. There are persons who know how to enter and how to leave. Today I am proud because those who entered yesterday, under other commanders, are leaving today and are using the front door, the arch of the victors of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. They leave with honor and prestige. That is the inheritance they will leave to their families. Woe to them who left through the kitchen door, woe to them who did not know how to leave with their heads high.

That is why honoring these soldiers who are retiring today in accordance with that law, the law of life that applies to the headquarters and the men who are inside the headquarters... [changes thought] There is no greater honor, and part of that honor is the humility of this event. This event is being held inside the walls of the place where men like [Colonel Elias] Castillo, [Colonel Ricardo] Garibaldo, and all the other officers—I call them commanders—made the most important decisions that led to the 1968 revolution. These walls that are full of history are also full of tears, events, happiness, and professionalism. Here, we are at the Pumas' home.

Castillo and I began our military career together, and we are united by more than weapons, training, and the unwritten history of the days of a Chorrillos Military Academy cadet. Some days we would go out and he had $2, or 10 sols back then, that his mother sent him, and he would share them with me; or vice versa, when my godmother would send me tamales in December, I would share them with him. We shared those same experiences with civilians like the current attorney general, with [Agriculture Minister] Darien Ayala, and with others who were also studying and learning in Peru.

We cannot, as he already said in his own words, say anything more about Castillo and his wife, who has been his support. We cannot pin any more medals on his chest.

What more could we say about Castillo other than the fact that Torrijos received him as a major in Colon and that he also contributed to Torrijos' return on 16 December 1968 [following coup attempt against Torrijos while on trip to Mexico] when he was commander of this unit?

This is a thoroughly tested man to whom the gringos offered everything so they could destroy him, vainly thinking that a man is worth a few dollars or a few more dollars. This is a man, a soldier, whom I want to offer as an example to the troops who are here at this place where he once served. Many of them did not know Castillo as their commander. I want to present him as a striking example of the prestige, valor, and morals of a superior soldier who was never tempted into engaging in a calculating flirtation with the U.S. empire.

Garibaldo also knows well the stages and manner of development of the FDP. He rose from the ranks, and I also offer him as an example to all soldiers. Let every new soldier look upon himself as a Garibaldo. When he joined the FDP he did not ask what he was going to be, when he would be promoted, or what rank or position he would reach.

As he rose through the ranks, he went to Venezuela when none of us here knew about the system—also far-sighted—of courses for sergeants that Jose Antonio Remon Cantera [late commander of the Panama National Guard, forerunner of the FDP] created along with the Venezuelan military mission. Garibaldo attended a military band school in Venezuela.

But for this man from Colon there was something in store beyond visiting Venezuela, studying in Venezuela, and returning to Panama. After that, his own ability and interest made him rise to the level of and even pass many graduates of military academies. The Lancer Unit of that military school, to which Garibaldo belonged, is recorded in the golden book of honor. This alone epitomizes the highest homage and prestige achieved by this man who is retiring today.

Then there is [Lieutenant Colonel Aristides] Ivan Hassan: Along with his father [late Colonel Aristides Hassan], who also belonged to the former National Police and National Guard, he got to know the inside story of the institution. He learned step by step, listened, saw, and experienced, and later he produced the history he is writing. He will continue to live among us in the archives of the History Department, so soldiers can learn that the FDP has roots. This means that those of us who may have forgotten it will remember tomorrow that we fought in the Ayacucho battle together with Tomas Herrera and alongside Sucre, and that before the FDP came into being there was a National Guard. This is Hassan, the man who brought into the FDP his talent for compiling and recording past events.

About [Colonel Jose Santos] Motta, what can we say about Motta? He is a professional naval man who graduated at a time when the military had no place for him.

He had gone too far. In addition, he had graduated from a naval academy. There was no place for him, just as there was no place for pilots. These specializations were completely alien to the former National Guard. Some of his classmates were hired as canal pilots by oil corporations, but he was left idle with his training. It is at this time that the revolution found him and put him to the test. When in the future we refer to the Navy, we will have to use Jose Santos Motta's name.

He was given an opportunity to work at the Port Authority, where he did well. I must say, however, that the Yankees also wanted to win him over for their cause. I invite soldiers, guests, and the military men who are representing friendly nations here to listen to this carefully. With the dignity of a Panamanian patriot, however, he expressed his convictions without any bias. This is the man who ended his professional career with honor, and, like the other FDP members, I greet his family and children with the same honor.

Today we also wish to honor Major Del Cid, Edilberto del Cid. Maj Del Cid is also receiving this special award during this event.

Also receiving this award is [Lieutenant Colonel] Dr Carlos Garcia, who is also part of our institution's history. His medical experience allowed him to be that special person who went beyond medicine and acquired the concept of loyalty to the soldier—the concept of the soldier's development, well-being, and health. The progress we have made in military medicine is thanks to him. He helped us get back part of Gorgas Hospital; he helped us remodel and improve the former Ward 28, which was later turned into our own health facility. He helped put the military health magazine together, he was involved in the AIDS prevention program, and he made international contacts to learn of any developments in military medicine. This is a very important field; it is very important in today's world.

I am now going back to Del Cid, who is the ultimate expression of a leader and soldier. When I first met him, he was being sent to Coiba Island for punishment; he was terrible.

I rescued him, because it was said that he drank too much. He was a born soldier—the ultimate soldier. His personal and mental abilities had not been discovered, but the revolution discovered them. He was a soldier who marched over the Jurutungo and Piedra Candela mountains and through the valleys on the border, all in a search for peace. He sought peace, but he did so with the vigor of a soldier who realizes that this peace has a price and offers a challenge. He led the men for the first time—I was an officer then—from here in Tocumen to the mountains of Piedra Candela, to the boundary mark that very few men have ever reached on foot. Later, Colonel Wong arrived today. [sentence as heard]

Those were the historic boundary markers where we sought peace and where we were also at a disadvantage, because in 1968 we had only 23 M-1 submachineguns. The Americans had cut off aid to Panama and had also applied sanctions. They organized a guerrilla group against us on the border with Costa Rica, a group directed by the Americans. We went there to find them, and we ousted them, because this involved Panamanian sovereignty, Panamanian dignity, and Panamanian territory. Those troops, reincarnated here today, started out from here, led by the then Sublieutenant Del Cid. Del Cid became a legend of honor.

It is men who embody the entire range of qualities of the officers who are retiring today—the basic honor of a brave soldier, the intelligence of a Castillo, the perseverance of a Garibaldo, the diligence of a Hassan, the technological skills of a Motta, and the scientific knowledge of a Garcia—to whom we pay tribute today, in front of you all—because this is an intimate, family ceremony of reverence and of example that we are attending—as they go into retirement.

Thus, we are all inscribed in that future destiny, absolutely all of us, including the commander. When I retire, I want to retire in a field like this one, in front of men like you, with a single Panamanian flag, and with weapons like those you have used so well.

To those who go before me into retirement, I extend my reverence for their example, because it is not enough to participate in the first step, which is appointment; one has to pass through the five other steps that end in retirement, but a retirement with dignity and honor. What you have seen here, the pages that have just been read here reflect a historical tradition of honor among men who do not belong to the unwholesome Cerberus that is the Southern Command today. They are men of honor who have a fatherland and who have not gone to fight or to cause trouble in someone else's fatherland. They are willing to give their lives for this fatherland in which they were born. Woe to those who have no fatherland!

The honor that was mentioned here is the honor that we want you to carry away in your minds, take to your comrades, and see reflected in each one of those comrades, so as to make the FDP live up to the slogan: All for the Fatherland. [applause]

Solis Palma Lauds Participation in Talks

PA1907003889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2346 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Interview with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, by unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Solis Palma] Concerning the dialogue, I believe it has been a beneficial step in which Panamanians with different viewpoints have sat down to seek common solutions for the country. Of course, much ground remains to be covered and it will basically depend on the goodwill and the realism with which each group views the historic moment.

[Reporter] Mr President, there are some people who believe the government is being weak by participating in the dialogue. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Solis Palma] I do not think the government is being weak by participating in the dialogue. We have always said we are willing to hold a dialogue with any Panamanian who wants to discuss the fatherland and the nation. Under those conditions, we are willing to meet with any Panamanian. It could also be said that the opposition is being weak because it has agreed to participate in talks with the government. This is a matter of opinion or a desire to keep the Panamanian family divided.

Duque 'Very Optimistic' About Dialogue

PA1907010089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2353 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Interview with former presidential candidate Carlos Duque Jaen of the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) by unidentified reporters in Panama City on 18 July—recorded]

[Text] [Duque] During two sessions of the dialogue, we have worked in a very open, frank, and friendly climate. No topic has been excluded. We cover all of them.

[Reporter] In view of the topics presented for the agenda by the two groups, it seems that the dialogue will be difficult. While we have the issue of the intervention and the influence that ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] may have on the U.S. Government decision to release the funds and, as you may see, the presence of

U.S. troops in Panama, ADOC demands that Noriega withdraw. All this seems to make these negotiations very difficult. These are insurmountable obstacles within the dialogue.

[Duque] A national agreement involves reaching a practical agreement on all points of conflict. I believe that we must seek ways to reach national agreement. There can be no national agreement based on unilateral problems of this or that group. We need to reach agreement that benefits both sides.

[Reporter] When the OAS delegation left, were you able to detect if they felt there was political will in this country?

[Duque] Most definitely. We could see this from the very beginning, not just when they left. After their first trip to Panama, they left with the certainty that there was political will in Panama, at least on our part, to reach a national agreement. They have said this from the beginning.

[Reporter] Did the ADOC proposal respond to COLINA's expectations?

[Duque] The ADOC proposal includes points they have always presented through various statements and communiques addressed to the country. I also want to tell you that the agenda does not follow an order. It has no priorities.

[Reporter] Is there optimism that something will be achieved prior to or on 1 September?

[Duque] The mere fact that the dialogue process has begun to find a national agreement is a very positive step forward. What does this show? It shows that Panamanians can talk among Panamanians, seeking Panamanian formulas to help all of us.

I am very optimistic. There will be no working session tomorrow. The OAS will be meeting tomorrow and Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon is abroad. We are waiting for him to return to resume the dialogue.

OAS Mission Departs; Foreign Minister Comments

PA1907011789 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2325 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] As had been planned, the OAS mission of foreign ministers, including Diego Cordovez of Ecuador, Mario Palencia of Guatemala, Sahadeo Basdeo of Trinidad and Tobago, and UN Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, left early this morning for Washington to present their report on the Panama situation tomorrow to the consultation meeting of OAS foreign ministers.

The foreign ministers were seen off by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter; Evelio Fabroni, OAS director in Panama; and Dr Renato Pereira, adviser of the Panama Defense Forces.

Diego Cordovez and Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon happened to meet a few minutes before departure time, an opportunity which they took advantage of to exchange a few words. Arias Calderon boarded the same flight that took the foreign ministers back to Washington.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter assessed the work carried out by the mission:

[Begin Ritter recording] We achieved our objective, which was to engage the parties involved in the Panamanian political situation in a dialogue. The citizens can bear witness to the fact that several meetings were held. What appeared to be a wild dream—a virtual impossibility—2 months ago, is a tangible reality today. On balance, therefore, I think the situation is broadly positive. [end recording]

Continuation of Dialogue Depends on OAS

PA1907004289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Opposition leader Guillermo Endara Galimany said that the continuation of the tripartite dialogue depends on the OAS. Endara said that the dialogue between the opposing sectors is difficult unless a democratic position is taken to find a solution to the national crisis.

[Begin recording] [Endara] This is a frank dialogue, and precisely because it is frank we have come to realize that it is a very difficult dialogue. The government and COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] would like to pretend that nothing has occurred here, and that it has to invent a government, fabricate one out of thin air; it believes that the 10 persons who have been meeting should choose what 2 million Panamanians should choose.

Under these circumstances there cannot be a national agreement. We maintain a totally radical democratic thesis: that the people are the only source of legitimacy. No group of persons in Panama can give legitimacy to a government that does not come from the absolute majority of the Panamanian people. We are not, under any circumstances, going to agree to a government that is handpicked by 1, 10, or even 100 persons. The government should be selected by all Panamanians.

Consequently we find that the dialogue is an extremely difficult one. We are nevertheless participating and making an effort, but no one should have any false hopes.

[Reporter] On whom does the continuation of the dialogue depend?

[Endara] The dialogue is going to continue when Ricardo Arias Calderon returns and presents a report that he has to give us. Then we will continue if the OAS truly wants the dialogue to continue. We, as usual, will be at the

disposal of the country, of the fatherland, to try to find a solution as it should be found: among civilized people. I would like to ask the government representatives and the COLINA representatives to take heed of what is going on in Panama. When we met, we accepted, and they accepted also, that all of the topics presented by all of the parties would be considered. COLINA and the Defense Forces presented an agenda, we presented another, and the two agendas were accepted. We must discuss the two agendas.

[Reporter] What possibility is there for the parties to meet again without the approval or presence of the OAS representatives?

[Endara] An OAS undersecretary remained here in Panama; the undersecretary for legal affairs, Dr. Camino. So there is an OAS representative here, even if the foreign ministers are not in the country. I believe that in due time he [Dr. Camino] will hold a meeting, perhaps after Dr. Arias Calderon has returned.

[Reporter] When do you think that meeting will be held?

[Endara] Perhaps some time after Friday, but I really cannot say. This depends on the OAS. [End recording]

[Reporter] What was the attitude of the military in this round (?of talks)?

[Endara] They participated briefly in some matters. I believe they definitely participated. Yesterday they hardly spoke, even though they had a representative, Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt. Today they did talk. Today they joined the discussions, and I believe the situation has improved somewhat.

[Reporter] One of the basic points of the ADOC is General Manual Antonio Noriega's departure. However, [words indistinct] of General Noriega. Noriega is not sitting down at the negotiation table, so...

[Endara, interrupting] Actually, he does not need to be there. Either he makes a decision or his comrade in arms makes the decision for him. That is a point on which our position is well known. Unfortunately, for now and for the near future, we see big differences on this point.

[Reporter] Could Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon talk to us about his trip to Washington? [Words indistinct] the situation was very difficult. Do you think the situation is less difficult now?

[Endara] I do not think so. I believe it has remained the same. Perhaps, it is a bit more difficult now. I would like Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon to answer the other question.

[Reporter] As for your trip to Washington, are you going to make any specific proposal there? [words indistinct]

[Arias Calderon] The purpose of the trip to Washington is to inform the foreign ministers of our position following our experiences in this first dialogue. We also want to listen to the opinions of the OAS foreign ministers once they have the report provided to them by the OAS delegation that was present here. It is basically a two-way informative mission.

[Reporter] An area of conflict that seems to exist is the possiblity of a national reconstruction government. Would you be willing to accept or to participate in a national reconstruction government on 1 September?

[Endara] Let us explain the terms. During our campaign, we proposed that once we won the elections and once we were in power, we would lead a national reconstruction and reconciliation government. We will be in power on 1 September, and we will lead a national reconstruction and reconciliation government. What they are now calling a national reconstruction government is like a three-layer cake, in which they want to play a dirty political trick that is not based on the Constitution, and they want a small group of 10 persons to make decisions that should be made by 2 million Panamanians. We flatly reject that proposal because it is not democratic. We reject the idea that a small group of people can replace the Panamanian people and thwart the decision they made on 7 May.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Endara] Actually, we did not reach an agreement on that.

ADOC Leaders on Results of Dialogue

PA1807032489 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0140 GMT 18 Jul 89

[News conference given by Guillermo Endara Galimany and Ricardo Arias Calderon, former presidential candidates of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, with unidentified reporters in Panama City on 18 July—recorded]

[Text] [Endara] I imagine that you already know that an agenda was approved today, among other things. The order of the agenda was not decided, but it will be decided upon, as required, to achieve a national agreement.

This morning and again this afternoon we discussed what each party understands by transfer of power. As I said at noon, that was a very difficult discussion, since we consider this a vital point. We have concluded that there are fundamental and significant differences in the way we view the transfer of power. Of course, this also includes various concepts regarding the 7 May elections and General Noriega's departure.

There are fundamental differences, which will make it very difficult to reach a national accord. Nevertheless, I can inform you that although the members of the OAS mission will be departing soon, [OAS Legal Affairs Executive Secretary Hugo] Caminos will stay.

There will be no session tomorrow since we must consult with the members of ADOC's [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] directorate to inform them of the problems that have emerged. Are there any questions?

[Reporter] In what way could these differences affect the decisions that the (?OAS) must make?

[Endara] That is a very important point I forgot to mention. We have asked Ricardo Arias Calderon to travel to Washington to represent the two [other presidential candidates] who will remain in Panama and the ADOC. Of course, he will have full authority and power to represent the three of us as if we were all there.

[Reporter] Would you view it as a preliminary victory for the opposition that the progovernment groups and the armed forces have agreed to sit down face to face at a bargaining table and that they have agreed to include in the agenda General Noriega's departure and the recognition of the ADOC's election victory?

[Endara] It would be selfish on my part to say that. I believe it is a victory for us as well as for the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. I think the FDP's decision to participate was a victory for them. I also feel that it was a victory for the Panamanian people most of all. It would be selfish on our part to claim that this was only a victory for us. I believe that the FDP's decision to participate also has a lot of merit.

Editorial Says ADOC U.S. 'Mouthpiece'
PA1807224689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Worthy Position"]

[Text] The representatives of the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] and the Executive Branch, including the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], have suggested for inclusion in the agenda of the tripartite dialogue promoted by the OAS mission what in essence is the heart of the Panamanian problem.

Briefly stated, their suggestion is what has repeatedly been requested by the Republic of Panama: an end to the military aggression and threats against Panama by the United States of America; withdrawal of the additional U.S. troops from Panama; an end to the economic aggression and lifting of the freeze and return of the Panamanian funds being withheld by the United States; strict compliance by the United States with the spirit and letter of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties; and noninterference by the United States in Panama's political affairs.

As one can see, the Panamanian problem cannot be solved as long as the United States remains determined to meddle in matters that only pertain to the Panamanian people. These and other dialogues can be held and all possible "formulas for understanding" can be sought; however, the results will always be the same because, as long as the U.S. Government does not change its aggressive posture against Panama, and the Panamanian people, and as long as it refuses to stop meddling in the country, anyone who sits down to talk on behalf of the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] will only be the mouthpiece of the North American interventionist position.

This is what we, the Panamanian patriots, have seen once again in the initial ramblings of the ADOC, whose positions once again reflect those directed by Washington and repeatedly expressed in a monotonous tone by the officials that the U.S. Embassy still maintains in Panama.

The ADOC members have not even tried to hide this fact. They have not even tried to keep their reactions from giving them away since they finally agreed, 2 days ago, to sit down and hold face-to-face talks with the representatives of COLINA and the Executive Branch, including FDP representatives.

It has once again been proven that the problem is not differences between political parties or among Panamanians. The real problem is the United States' refusal to abide by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties because it wants to keep its bases and troops in Panamanian territory after the year 2000.

In light of the ADOC's selling out, the representatives of COLINA, the Executive Branch, and the FDP have once again reiterated the Panamanian people's worthy position not to allow the United States to disregard the treaties and to struggle to the end for the liberation of our country. The real confrontation is between those who support the homeland and those who allow themselves to be used as door mats by the United States; between the patriots and the antipatriots. The Panamanian patriots can have no doubts about which side they are on because the homeland is either liberated or surrendered and, as was expected, COLINA, the Executive Branch, and the FDP have maintained a worthy position in defense of the homeland.

Detained Officers' Wives Threaten FDP
PA1807003089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1727 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, 17 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The relatives of Panamanian military officers detained in March 1988 for their involvement in an attempted coup against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, announced today that

19 officers "who are still on active duty" were also involved in the coup. The relatives have threatened to reveal those officers' names "if our husbands are not released."

Vanessa de Macea, wife of Captain Humberto Macea who was detained 15 months ago, said that "19 officers who are still on active duty were involved in the 16 March coup attempt against Noriega," but she did not reveal their names.

One major's wife told ACAN-EFE that among the officers allegedly involved are "several members of the current Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff."

The relatives leveled these accusations shortly after presenting an appeal at the Supreme Court against Attorney General Carlos Villalaz, whom they have accused of "illegally detaining" their husbands.

Rita Fundora, wife of Major Santiago Fundora, one of the officers charged with participating in the coup attempt against Noriega, said that her husband "received orders from superiors on that day (16 March 1988), as did his comrades.

"My husband is not Superman or an idiot to attempt to topple Noriega alone," she said.

The detained officers' wives say their accusations are based upon their husbands' testimonies before Attorney General Carlos Villalaz, who is in charge of the proceedings on charges of acting against state security.

"Our silence has a price—our husbands' freedom," another officer's wife told ACAN-EFE, although she refused to disclose her name.

Following a thwarted coup attempt against Noriega, one colonel, seven majors, four captains, one lieutenant, two sublieutenants, and three sergeants, all of whom were allegedly involved in the coup, were detained. The incident forced the retirement of several officers, and the exile of three majors.

Villalaz explained to ACAN-EFE that the detained officers have all testified—their testimonies are contained in a voluminous resume—and that in the next phase of the proceedings there will be confrontations to "clarify contradictions," and civilians and military people who have been mentioned will be asked to testify.

According to Rita Fundora, active Majors Moises Giroldi and Jose Balm, retired Colonels Bernardo Barrera and Lorenzo Purcell, and Major Felipe Camargo, who recently retired from the force, have testified before the attorney general.

Official sources consulted by ACAN-EFE expressed fear that the case will be used to "attempt to divide the military as an institution," and they accused some of the relatives of "playing up to the opposition and the United States."

The appeal presented today at the Supreme Court argues that the detainees have already completed 1-year sentences in keeping with military law and, according to the Constitution, "no one will be tried more than once for the same crime."

According to this argument—which the attorney general refutes—the attorney general is acting "illegally."

The relatives also visited several European embassies today to request their mediation in favor of the detainees' release.

The European ambassadors' mediation with the government contributed to the release of 72 political detainees—all of whom were civilians—last week.

European diplomatic sources told ACAN-EFE that the detained soldiers' case is "different" from that of the civilians detained after the elections were annulled.

EC Ambassadors To Continue Dialogue

PA1507234289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0245 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 Jul (DPA)—A delegation of EC ambassadors residing in Panama will continue talks with the government of Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma.

FRG Ambasador Gotz von Boehmer made this statement to DPA, adding that it is very clear the Panamanian Government has given signs of its interest in relations with European countries.

"This is welcomed news to European governments," the West German ambassador said, but he declined to comment on EC reaction to the situation in Panama.

In response to the EC envoys' efforts, which began on 20 June, President Solis Palma ordered the release of 71 political prisoners arrested since 7 May.

French Ambassador Jacques von Rummelhardt, FRG Ambassador Gotz von Boehmer, British Ambasador Margaret Bryan, Spanish Ambassador Tomas Lozano, and Italian Ambassador Enzo Montano voiced their satisfaction with the Executive Branch's decision to release the prisoners and took advantage of the occasion to note their concern over when other political prisoners will be released.

Chamber of Commerce Releases Survey Results

PA1407184189 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] The economy is being destroyed, and rebuilding it will be very difficult, businessman Roberto Henrique said as he reported the results of the Chamber of Commerce's fifth economic survey. He added that a serious dialogue is called for—not a monologue, where everyone thinks alike and says the same things.

The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture today presented the results of its fifth economic survey, reporting commercial activities during the 1st quarter of 1989. The survey allows estimates to be made based on economic behavior so far this year. The survey results, along with reports on sales and profits, allow us to realize the extent of economic deterioration 2 years after the crisis began. Businessman Roberto Henriquez discussed the recession, economic stabilization, and the economy's effects on the country:

[Begin Henriquez recording] During the 1st quarter of this year, as compared to the 1st quarter of 1988, business profits dropped 8.3 percent. This figure is even greater if we compare this year's 1st quarter with the last quarter of last year. In this case, the drop would be 18.5 percent. In conclusion, business revenues at the beginning of this year showed a drop compared to last year's figures. This concerns us, because 1988 is regarded as a bad year. We want to inform those in charge of making political decisions that there is a need to hold a serious dialogue, not a monologue in which people think alike and say the same things. They must recognize the results of the 7 May elections, during which the people elected the opposition candidates. The government must recognize this because the national economy is being destroyed, and it will be very difficult to rebuild the economy. [end recording]

Official on 'Bleak' Outlook

PA1407191989 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Report on statements by Alfredo Maduro, president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture—date and place not given]

[Text] The country's per capita income has returned to levels that existed 15 years ago, Alfredo Maduro, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture, said. He added that Panama will probably lose $140 million per year because 3,000 foreign families have moved out of Panama.

[Begin Maduro recording] Our losses might not reach those levels, but I believe that the proposal we have heard about in the past few days and the article we read in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA today are jokes played upon the Panamanian people, mainly because one of the parties included in the talks belongs to the so-called independent opposition. It is an opposition party that does not even represent 1 percent of the voters.

I, therefore, believe that if a specific, genuine proposal is made, it will be accepted by the Panamanian people. I believe that the government and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] must definitely accept the people's will as expressed at the polls on 7 May. According to the people's will, as expressed on that day, the opposition forces should have a majority representation. [end recording]

Mr Maduro painted a bleak picture of Panama's GNP and per capita income:

[Begin Maduro recording] According to statistics, the GNP dropped considerably in 1988. According to our figures, if the economy and the political situation remain unchanged, the GNP will drop an additional 7 to 9 percent. One of the reasons for this is the fact that approximately 3,000 U.S. and foreign families have moved out of the country. This will result in an economic loss of approximately $140 million per year. If we consider the indirect costs to the economy, we could be speaking of a loss of approximately $400 and $500 million [ratio not specified]. We currently estimate that the individual per capita income has gone back to levels that existed some 10 to 15 years ago. [end recording]

Record Colon Free Zone Trade Figures Reported

PA1607031289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Colon Free Zone manager Veyra Remon expects that by late this year commercial activity in the free zone will exceed $4 billion. Ms Remon said that this year the free zone has already recorded $2.213 billion in trade, with June trade figures being the highest ever recorded.

[Begin Remon recording] The June figures were very good. As a matter of fact, the planning and evaluation office has just given me its report, and it shows that in June free zone trade reached the $441.9 million level, the highest ever since the free zone was opened. This amount includes $239.6 million in reexports and $202.3 million in imports. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem on Rapanelli, Military, Falklands, Prices

PY1807151089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1302 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem said this morning that a report published today by the newspaper PAGINA 12, which said that an arrest warrant had been issued against Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli in Venezuela for alleged involvement in economic wrongdoings, "will end as all lies usually end: wiped out by truth."

Menem emphasized that Rapanelli "was fully acquitted" in the case mentioned by the morning daily. Menem added that this case dates back to 1985 and emphasized that the minister possesses "documents from the national office of the prosecutor for administrative investigations of Venezuela" dismissing the charges.

Radio Continental asked the head of state about a report published today by the aforementioned newspaper that stated that an arrest warrant had reportedly been issued against the finance minister for "overinvoicing an import operation, using dollars at a preferential exchange rate," a case in which he and nine other board members of grain companies operating in Venezuela were reportedly involved.

Menem said that this incident "occurred in 1985," that "Rapanelli was acquitted," and that "I am surprised that at this time, when different political sectors in Venezuela are in opposition, a situation of this magnitude—which does not affect in the least the operation of the Argentine Government nor the moral standing of Minister Rapanelli, whom we will defend to the end—is now being mentioned."

The head of state pointed out that Minister Rapanelli contacted him to report that he was "worried and concerned" about the press report, "but calm, of course." Menem confirmed during the interview that the economy minister received telephone threats and that "the Interior Ministry is conducting the appropriate investigations."

Military

Concerning the military issue, Menem reiterated that "we will solve the problem, abiding by the law." He noted that "the solutions will come, and they will come soon." In this regard, Menem was asked about a press report published today by the morning daily AMBITO FINANCIERO, which stated that such a solution "would come before 17 August."

The head of state then said: "I am not risking a date." He announced, however, that "the solution will come before the end of the year." Menem added that "this is not a scientific matter; the (military) issue is a matter of principles, a legal matter." He pointed out that "in politics, times and moments are handled very carefully."

Malvinas

Asked about the possibility of holding "direct negotiations" with the United Kingdom on the Malvinas issue, as announced by the morning Daily CLARIN, the chief executive said that this "is not true." He made it clear that "our position was outlined several days ago and I stick to what I said." Menem emphasized that "no proposal has been directly made to the United Kingdom."

"There is nothing firm," Menem said. He admitted that "informal negotiations" have been conducted, such as those by Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who conveyed to Menem British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's "willingness" to resume talks with Argentina.

President Menem reiterated that "purchasing power will recover gradually" since "the labor-management arbitration boards will meet and salary adjustments will be implemented" in the aftermath of the price agreement. Menem reiterated that "the main objective is to curb inflation" and "in a few months" it will be single-digit inflation, "which we hope will not be greater than 5, 6, or 7 percent."

He admitted that this objective "will be difficult to attain if we do not reorganize the internal market." He said that the price agreement reached with a group of leading companies "is part of a larger system that we call the social pact."

Bureaucratic Apparatus

When asked whether "the bureaucratic apparatus could restrain the social pact," Menem replied: "When there is a firm will, no bureaucratic apparatus is capable of restraining it. This is an all-out war." he added that "there are 30 or 32 million Argentines who expect us to make things right, and we will do so."

Menem said that "there is a firm will" to fight the deficit and the "generalized corruption." As an example, he mentioned the case of Argentine Railways [FFCC] and the "free tickets." Menem said that "the FFCC trustee was specifically instructed to correct this problem in 6 months, or we will have to adopt drastic measures." Menem added that "corruption has penetrated deeply."

"Our people do not want to hear about these humiliating cases that harm the dignity of those who suffer most "any longer, and they expect "harsh punishments" to be applied.

Foreign Minister Departs for Talks in U.S.

PY1907023289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo departed tonight for the United States, where he will have official meetings to consider "common topics" pertaining to the two nations, and "the Argentine position on international politics that has been announced by President Carlos Menem."

The foreign minister made these remarks just before he departed from Ezeiza International Airport at 2250 [0150 GMT] on a flight to New York via Miami.

Old Charges Against Rapanelli Being Questioned

PY1807224589 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2004 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (DYN)—Deputy Federico Clerici, of the Democratic Centrist Union, today presented the draft of a resolution requesting the executive branch to report on the case against Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli, who is being tried by the Venezuelan courts, and about "Rapanelli's detention, which was ordered by Venezuelan Judge La Riva Lopez."

"The order for Rapanelli's detention," Clerici added, "is related to alleged overinvoicing of wheat, which Venezuela imported from the United States through the Gramoven Company. Gramoven is a branch of the U.S. Bunge and Born Corporation."

Deputy Clerici asked in the draft "whether Rapanelli's detention was really ordered on 26 May 1989," and "whether the executive branch knew about it before appointing Rapanelli as the economy minister."

Clerici added: "In view of the seriousness of the matter, I would simply like to point out that the media supports the need to deeply investigate the charges."

"The country is going through dramatic times," Clerici added, "which call for a responsible attitude from all. I, therefore, do not want to say too much. I am simply waiting for the executive branch to give an official answer to my questions."

Caceres Requests Release of Ex-Commanders

PY1707204289 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Rosario (NA)—Yesterday, Army Chief of Staff General Isidro Caceres requested President Carlos Menem and the executive branch to implement "a measure" that will end the trials for human rights violations and release the former military commanders.

Regarding the fate of Colonel Mohamed Seineldin and Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, who are being investigated by the court for mutiny, Caceres said "it is very difficult to say at this time."

As for the reconciliation mass proposed by the disrupted "Montoneros" terrorist organization, Caceres said he agrees with "holding it" but he will not urge Army personnel to attend if it is held.

Yesterday morning Caceres attended a ceremony held at the parade ground of the 121 Communications Battalion, headquartered in Rosario, during which the new II Corps Commander, General Hugo Sabino Fernandez, assumed his duties.

Speaking to journalists, Caceres reasserted that the Army prefers to be professional and to be integrated in Argentine society.

He added: "a measure should be implemented to end these trials, the aftermath of the war against subversion, and the arrest of military commanders. I do not know whether it should be through an amnesty or a pardon because it is not for us to decide. But we do request the people's understanding. We also request our commander in chief, and the executive branch, to try to seek a solution to this problem."

Caceres reasserted that the authorities "should find a solution to these problems that affect the spirit of the Army, problems like the aftermath of the war against subversion and the Malvinas War."

Caceres admitted that there are problems within the Army. But he said: "the time has come to look to the future and not to the past, within the same broad spirit that President Menem has called, so as to achieve unity and understanding among Argentines and to continue helping each other to go forward."

He said: "this is the spirit that guides my actions. We must take into account that military discipline must never be violated and that it must be based on justice and reason."

Caceres said that Rico and Seineldin "are under military investigation" and that "it is very difficult establish" their fate "because of the seriousness of the issues and because their destiny, their integrity, and their honor are at stake."

He reasserted that the situation of the rebel officers "will be viewed individually based on what was said by President Menem and our regulations, but without violating discipline."

Regarding the rebel military officers, Caceres said that "I will request the direct intervention of the Armed Forces commander in chief"—that is, the president—"in those cases that cannot be resolved."

Speaking about the mass that has been proposed by leaders of the disrupted "Montonero" guerrilla group, Caceres said: "I support any gesture to achieve a peaceful reconciliation."

However, he explained: "I have not expressed my position on this mass. This is a religious ceremony and as such each individual must individually decide whether or not to attend.

"I have not, and I cannot, urge the Armed Forces members to attend this mass."

About the war against subversion, Caceres said: "it was a nonconventional war in which each man was guided by his own values. A war without the fronts, the rules, the chiefs or the uniforms that characterize a war."

He said: "there may have been mistakes, and even excesses." But he added: "we are not here to look back; mistakes were indeed made; but we are not the only ones who made them, otherwise the country would not be in the current situation."

Caceres also said the war against subversion "was legitimate" and he reasserted that "if we are to heal wounds and if the Army is to continue to enjoy the people's support, the laws must be upheld."

Latest of Menem Appointments Installed

Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff

PY1707223089 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2004 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Jul (DYN)—Air Force Chief of Staff, Major Brigadier Jose Antonio Julia, today installed the new Deputy Chief of Staff, Brigadier Rodriguez who will also serve as the Air Force inspector general. [passage omitted]

Intelligence School Director

PY1807023389 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Jul (NA)—General Carlos Martinez, retired, was installed as director of the National Intelligence School in a ceremony presided over by Juan Bautista Yofre, secretary of the SIDE [State Intelligence Secretariat]. Bautista Yofre highlighted the "meritorious career" of the new official, who left the sector more than 5 years ago. [passage omitted]

Tierra del Fuego Governor

PY1807023689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, 17 Jul (NA)—Today Carlos Martin Torres was sworn in as governor of Tierra del Fuego Territory. The ceremony was attended by Vice President Eduardo Duhalde, who was representing the president of the Republic. [passage omitted]

Secretariat for Antidrug Struggle Created

PY1807151789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0337 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jul (TELAM)—It was officially reported today that, by Decree No 271, the executive branch has created the Planning and Coordinating Secretariat for Preventing Drug Addiction and Fighting Drug Trafficking [Secretaria de Programacion y Coordinacion para la Prevencion de la Drogadiccion y la Lucha contra el Narcotrafico].

The secretariat, which will be headed by Alberto Lestelle, was created to "assist the president in all matters related to the planning of efforts to supervise, control, and legislate the fight against drug trade and drug abuse. The secretariat will also coordinate the national on drug control and drug abuse and their relation to the policies of other countries."

It has also been ordered that all permanent, temporary, contracted, and other personnel assigned to the National Coordinating Commission for the Control of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse be transferred to the new secretariat.

The law establishes a 30-day deadline for this secretariat to submit to the executive branch a draft bill outlining its functional structure, goals, and duties.

300 Companies Promise To Obey Price Agreement

PY1807140789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2320 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 Jul (NA)—Some 300 leading companies today promised the government to stop raising prices. The agreement virtually confirms the price increases of the last few weeks, although it foresees a 20-percent decrease in prices from the 15 July level.

Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli reasserted that salary readjustments will be freely agreed upon, and he added that the government will "most strictly control monetary and fiscal operations." [passage omitted]

The agreement has no termination date, but it was agreed during the first talks that it would last at least until the end of September. [passage omitted]

As the agreement was signed, the Domestic Trade Secretariate [SCI] simultaneously released copies of Resolution No 3, dated 15 July 1989, which legally implements the price readjustment mechanism that was agreed upon.

The resolution established that companies that did more than 400 million australes worth of business in the domestic market in the last 12 months can only increase their prices if they request the SCI's authorization beforehand.

Other companies can readjust their prices without requesting advanced authorization, provided they keep records explaining and justifying the readjustment and put them at the disposal of the authorities.

Substances used for medicinal purposes are not included in the agreement.

The stability agreement requires the government to maintain the exchange rate and the public service utility prices at the current level "and to keep the interest rates in line with those variable."

The agreement also established that "an improvement in productivity that may justify salary adjustments cannot be transferred to prices."

The instructions annexed to SCI Resolution No 3 state that cost increases caused by salary readjustments "in July cannot be greater than 160 percent of what they were in June."

The agreement signed today forces the signing companies to "maintain a normal supply of all of its products to the public at the agreed prices."

It has also been agreed that the government and the companies will form a joint commission to draft a project "to improve the Supply Law, which will then be submitted to Congress by the executive branch."

Report Details Socioeconomic Situation

PY1907024589 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2348 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (DYN)—According to an official report released today by the Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE), the accumulated inflation rate during President Raul Alfonsin's 5.5-year term was of 664,801 percent, which is an unprecedented world record since World War II.

The document notes that with a lower class of 10 million people, $67-billion foreign debt, an unemployment and underemployment rate of 15 percent, and a 65-percent drop in the purchasing power of salaries during the last constitutional term, "Argentina is today in a situation which, from a social viewpoint, is worse than the situation in most Third World countries."

In a detailed 5-page report, the SIDE outlined an impressive picture of the socioeconomic situation, which is the result of "a scorched-earth policy" which has been blamed on the Radical Party and also on the previous de facto regime.

The report added that "between 10 December 1983 and the transfer of power on 8 July 1989, the inflation rate that was accumulated by the Alfonsin government reached some 664,801 percent. Since the end of World War II, no nation of the world has registered such a high rate."

The document noted that "the devaluation of the local currency, measured with respect to the U.S. dollar, has reached 1,627,429 percent, which is also unprecedented in recorded history."

According to the report, "there are 10 million people in the lower sectors, and their living standards fail to meet their basic and elementary needs," while 69 percent of the poor have only "recently" reached such condition.

The report released by the secretariat, which is led by Juan Bautista Yofre, was presented as a "reminder of the legacy that has been received." The document's objective's is to "clearly outline the very serious responsibility of a government which on several occasions claimed to be the champion of the cause of democracy, of the institutions, and of devotion to the people."

The report also charged that the Radicals do not understand that "the socioeconomic destruction of the people can only lead to exceptionally serious situations which flatly contradict the Radical government's claims."

In its paragraph, the report said that "the government of Carlos Menem has already had to adopt very hard economic measures, and it will have to adopt other similar measures in an effort to solve the extraordinary economic problems, which are equivalent to a true catastrophe and which have been inherited from the Alfonsin administration."

The report said that "the Argentine people should become aware that the utility rate lag has been equivalent to a scorched-earth policy." It went on to say that on 8 July, electric power rates were at "30 percent of their real value, while the price lag for railway rates was 37 percent, and for gas rates almost 50 percent. The price of fuel sold by YPF [Government Oil Deposits] has lagged in an even more dramatic manner becuase of its influence on tax revenues."

The document added that "in some transportation sectors, the rates were 60 percent below their real value."

Another focal point of the SIDE report referred to Argentina's currency reserves, which were "below $100 million" when Menem assumed the Presidency 8 July.

The report added: "The unpaid interest owed to international commercial banks surpassed $7 billion between April 1988 and 8 July 1989. During this period, the government adopted a stealthy policy of unilateral moratorium in order to accumulate reserves to finance the gigantic squandering of dollars under the Spring Plan, when the exchange rate crisis began."

The report added that "on 30 June, the treasury deficit reached $470 million, and the deficit generated by financing through austral-denominated public bonds and by the Central Bank's interest-earning borrowings amounted to nearly $4 billion."

"This way, in 1988 Argentina produced 6 percent less than in 1983. In 1988, the industrial GNP was 14 percent lower than in 1983," the SIDE said.

The Peronist report added: "After all this, after this formidable stagnation, which must be added to the stagnation inherited from the military government, the foreign debt (considering the unpaid interest as principal) today stands at $67 billion, despite the fact that more than $10 billion has been transferred abroad to service the debt."

"The foreign debt, which today surpasses the GDP, is practically 10 times as large as our yearly exports."

The SIDE report, which described a dramatic picture of the Argentine situation in connection with the foreign sector, added: "No negotiations are being held with creditor banks, no talks are being held with the IMF, World Bank credits have been frozen, commercial credit lines are at their minimum level, and not even normal installments are paid to the international banks."

"As a result of this economic madness, the current Argentine social situation is extremely serious, more serious than any other situation our country may have experienced in the 20th century," the report added.

After pointing out that the Argentine "poorer sector has almost 10 million people," the report explains that "the official statistics agency, the INDEC, [National Institute of Statistics and Census], admits that, from a technical viewpoint, 44 percent of the population of Greater Buenos Aires is poor." The document noted that more than 30 percent of the Argentine population lives in Greater Buenos Aires.

The report also noted that relief programs in Greater Buenos Aires reached only "240,000 families, or only one-third of the area's have-nots."

The PAN [National Food Program] has met the needs of only 3 million people, leaving 7 million unattended," the report charged.

Finally, the report said that "in the current extremely serious economic situation, 17 percent of industrial sector workers were suspended in June, the hiring of temporary workers was suspended, 30 percent of the leading enterprises cut their overtime or reduced the number of working hours, while dismissals were reported in 10 percent of those enterprises."

Bolivia

Agricultural Loan Contracts Signed With PRC

PY1807230089 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
5 Jul 89 p 5

[Text] Additional loan contracts between the PRC and Bolivia worth $675,000 were signed on 4 July during a simple ceremony held at the Planning and Coordination Ministry.

Fernando Ruiz, public investment under secretary of the Planning Ministry, and Ramiro Ortega, Treasury under secretary of the Finance Ministry, signed the contracts on behalf of Bolivia, while Luo Hamling [name as published], deputy manager of the National China Corporation, signed on behalf of the PRC.

The additional contracts extend for 2 years the following programs: The Villamontes, Tarija Department, Soybean and Peanut Experimental Seed Station, which will have five PRC experts and the PRC will also send agricultural equipment, tools, and spares valued at $318,350: The San Carlito, located in the Trinidad Department of the Beni, Rice and Vegetable Experimental Station. For this project the PRC will send another five experts, agricultural machinery, and spares valued at $318,320: Finally the PRC will also supply a motorized vehicle valued at $18,686 for the Cultivation and Production of Tea Project that is located in Caranavi.

The figures contained in the three agreements amount to $675,000 and it will be disbursed through first and second lines of credit established in the Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreements that have been signed by the two governments.

The following Bolivian corporations will contribute to these projects: The Tarija Regional Development Corporation (CODETAR), the Regional Development Corporation of Beni (CORDE-BENI) in the project of the Experimental Rice and Vegetables Project, and the La Paz Regional Development Corporation (CORDEPAZ) in the Cultivation and Production of Tea Project.

Joint Antidrug Actions With Peru Announced

PY1807141289 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
7 Jul 89 p 7

[Text] Social Defense Under Secretary Genaro Marquez has reported that Bolivia and Peru will intensify actions to control the movement of drugs and related chemical substances across their border.

Marquez said these actions stem from a decision made by both countries to undertake a tenacious joint effort against the drug trade, a scourge that affects both countries.

The issue of joint border control is on the agenda of representatives of Bolivian and Peruvian antidrug organizations at the second meeting of the Bolivian-Peruvian Subcommittee for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and for the Repression of the Illegal Traffic of Narcotic Drugs (Subcominarco II), which is being held in Cochabamba.

Two INTERPOL generals from Peru, officials of the Bolivian Undersecretariats for Social Defense and Alternate Development, and INTERPOL officials in Bolivia are attending the meeting, which opened on 4 July at the Portales Palace.

Marquez emphasized the two countries' decision to join efforts to take coordinated action against drugs and other activities to bring the drug trade under control.

Representatives of specialized organizations from both countries will also discuss the implementation of a communications system between the Bolivian and Peruvian INTERPOL offices to improve the effectiveness of their actions to control drug trafficking.

Marquez said that another topic on the agenda is the possibility of implementing joint programs to rehabilitate drug addicts.

The Cochabamba meeting, which is being held under tight security measures, will conclude today.

Andean Mines Ministers Discuss Cooperation

PY1907024089 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpts] A meeting of mining ministers of the Andean Group held in Santa Cruz ended last weekend after 2 days of discussions aimed at tightening relations in order to strengthen agreement on mining and metallurgy among the Andean Pact countries.

Peruvian Mines Minister Mario Samame Boggio; (Julio San Pedro) Colombian Geology and Mines Director General; Ecuadoran Ambassador (Luis Narvaez) [name as heard]; and Venezuelan Deputy Mines Minister (Napoleon Loza) participated in the meeting which was termed successful.

Among other things, the officials agreed to ask the Cartagena Agreement Board to draw up an organization and integration program for the Andean mining and metallurgy sector based on the successful programs implemented by this organization in the past years and also on proposals discussed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting the mining ministers of Bolivia and Peru signed an agreement for bilateral cooperation in the mining sector. The agreement is designed to strengthen the efforts to develop the mining sectors of the two countries. [passage omitted]

First Half Year Inflation Figures Announced

PY1707215489 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Jul 89 p 4

[Summary] The National Statistics Institute (INE) has reported that the accumulated inflation rate over the first half of this year stands at 2.42 percent. The inflation rates in the months of January through May were 0.48, 0.55, 0.84, 0.11, and 0.62, with a deflation rate of 0.18 in June.

Brazil

President Sarney Sends Letter to Mitterrand

PY1807200089 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jul 89 p 14

[Letter by President Jose Sarney to French President Francois Mitterrand, on the occasion of the bicentennial of the French Revolution on Brasilia, 26 June.]

[Text] Brasilia, 26 June, 1989.

Your Excellency, Mr Francois Mitterrand.

President of the Republic of France.

"Mr President,

"The commemoration of the French Revolution Bicentennial is an appropriate occasion for reflecting on the main matters that affect the international community. The French Revolution was staged in France by an extraordinary generation of philosophers and leaders of mankind, and it has constituted a universal reference point, and above everything, an endless source of learning.

"The ideals of the 1789 revolutionaries are valid now at the end of this century which is distinguished by deep divisions among states and by flagrant situations of injustice. It is no exaggeration to assert that the French Revolution has yet to take place at an international level. Differences among nations increase as a small group of countries accumulate material and intellectual achievements, while the majority of mankind struggles between poverty and destitution. An alarming imbalance between center and periphery has been created. New and more dangerous societies have increasing posibilities of progress and wellbeing, while the future only seems to offer sacrifices and frustrations for the rest.

"Despite the many calls of alarm, and the many laudable individual and collective initiatives, it has not been possible so far to develop at an international level a

negotiation process to systematically face the great problems that face us at the end of the century. Only a collective mobilization and a general awareness of the seriousness and urgency of this historic moment will allow us to identify the true origins of this crisis, and to face its effects and remove its unstabilizing factors. No country or group of countries, no matter how powerful they may be, will be able to assume, on their own, such a task.

"Like the rest of the underdeveloped regions, Latin America is becoming a victim of world problems whose solutions are very distant from its capability to solve them. I particularly refer to the foreign debt, to trade protectionism, and to the access to science and technology. These issues are extremely complex, since each one stands within its own specific causes and circumstances. The foreign debt has been responsible for state bankrupcy in practically all the debtor countries, whose governments, which have been forced to remit sound resources abroad, have become incapable of attending the growing needs for investment in productive and social fields. The trade protectionist practiced by the leading economies prevents the development of a self-supporting trade system capable of generating growth in the Third World. The restrictions on the access to the benefits of science and technology are sentencing the less favored nations to stagnation, thus widening the gap that separates them from the more dynamic societies.

"A process of crisis has begun in Latin America. Its consequences are yet unforeseeable. At the end of my term as president of Brazil I am absolutely convinced that if far-reaching measures are not adopted fast, there will be no way to contain the social explosion that is coming. Given the lack of funds and oppression by a perverse international situation, the Latin American governors do not have means with which to attend the legitimate and basic wishes of their societies, such as access to a better standard of living and to the benefits of progress, which are so evident in the developed countries. Guerrilla movements in several countries, like in Peru and Colombia, are increasing and are often connected with drug trafficking. Spontaneous demonstrations of repudiation, like the ones that took place in Caracas and in some Argentine cities are taking place. There is an accumulation of violence, of exalted rebellion that can explode at any moment in any country and expand uncontrollably. Amid the apparent security and self-contentment that distinguish those who are satisfied, the Western world could be surprised by the volume of violence that may emerge in Latin America.

"It is not a question of ideologies anymore. It is not the traditional division between capitalist and socialist systems that is at stake in Latin America. Technological and scientific developments have helped to overcome ideological confrontation in leading countries. Persistant poverty and exhausted development models have also helped to overcome ideological differences in Latin America, but through other means. The revolution does not seem to be based on a specific doctrine or nourished by any specific revolutionary ideal. It is a revolution of despair, of lack of prospects, of the frustration of the large masses of disenchanted needy people. It is a revolution whose remote origins are lost somewhere in the beginning of Latin American history; a revolution, detonated by current difficulties, and whose development I foresee with great aprehension.

"Much is said about today's interdependent world. But Latin America has only seen the negative side of interdependence. Interdependence is upheld to perpetuate an international order that in truth relegates us to dependence; an order in which the poorer are paradoxically financing the wealthier; an order in which the flow of knowledge is exchanged only horizontally; and in which great economic decisions are made by increasingly smaller circles. Certainly, this is not the kind of interdependence we aspire to achieve. Therefore, we cannot be compelled to accept it unless we seek to condemn ourselves to irrelevance.

"In effect, today we are witnesses to the prevalence of another "Old Regime" [Ancien Regime] [previous two words given in French] that must be overthrown. It is the "Old Regime" of the privileged, of the monopolies of knowledge, of insensibility, and of oppression, either open or disguised. Let us change it before it is too late. Let us change it before the anguish of the needy gives way to radical and unreasonable attitudes. Let us change it in a peaceful manner before negotiation and conciliation are surpassed by an intransigent confrontation.

"We must immerse ourselves in the discussion of these issues during this period of reflection that has been offered by Your Excellency's initiative to hold this meeting on French soil—the soil on which germinated the great liberating ideals of the French Revolution of 1789, and which will now harbor the highest-ranking dignataries of the world, from both the wealthy and the poor countries.

"In my capacity as president of Brazil, I whole-heartedly support Your Excellency's initiative because I am certain it is destined to achieve a historical dimension. In your capacity as promoter and host of the bicentennial ceremonies, Your Excellency can be the spokesman within 'The Group of Seven,' of Brazil's willingness—and that of all Latin American countries—to promote a wide, open, and totally objective dialogue on the most serious political and economic issues that are common to us all.

"We are not here to accuse anyone or to try to dodge our responsibilities. There is no room for resentment or discriminations. But it is imperative to reestablish an attitude of cooperation, a new attitude that will relegate to the past all conflicts; one which ultimately will result in the prevalence of truly just international relations, thus honoring the legacy of the French Revolution.

"In a truly interdependent world, we must all give and take. Certainly we will be worth much more if we are all together than if we are isolated and indifferent.

"Mr. President: I hope you receive this message as a token of the admiration I have for you because of your interest in universal problems; and as a token of the confidence in your leadership. I am certain you will use this message wisely. You can rest assured that you will always find in me a promoter of dialogue and understanding.

"I hereby wish to extend to you my warmest esteem and consideration.

"from, Your Excellency,

"Jose Sarney

"President of the Federative Republic of Brazil"

Federal Police Investigate Foreign Ministry

PY1707214489 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jul 89 p 15

[By Gilberto Dimenstein from Brasilia]

[Text] The Brazilian Federal Police [PF] have decided to ask Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization) for help to investigate the Visconde de Cabo Frio Foundation which is under the jurisdiction of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry. The "Cabo Frio connection," that has been operating within the ministry, involves other countries, namely the United Kingdom and the United States. The PF suspects that, beside the U.S. dollars that were being taken out of Brazil, there could be drug trafficking, especially with cocaine. The SNI (National Intelligence Service) shares these suspicions.

One of the first steps in the investigation will be to find out, in Brazil, whether the Cabo Frio Foundation had the right to use the diplomatic pouch for its correspondence because it has an office in New York. If so, the next question is; who authorized it? The background of people in Brazil who are involved in this affair is currently being investigated. The number of times these people have traveled abroad will also be investigated. They will have to testify on the reasons for their trips, name the people they met, and where they spent the nights. This information will be sent to Interpol to be checked.

The suspicion that drugs may be involved in the "Cabo Frio Connection," arose when the PF network of informers relayed the "rumor" that somebody could be using the shipments of dollars abroad to send out cocaine.

However, as far as FOLHA DE SAO PAULO could ascertain, there is no concrete evidence that could incriminate anyone in drug trafficking. The main suspicions of the PF are directed at black market dealings in foreign currency and mismanagement of foundation funds. These suspicions are based on a dossier that the office of the National Attorney General turned over to the PF last week when the investigation began.

To speed up the investigation the PF has decided to work together with the National Accounting Office (TCU). This was reported yesterday by TCU Acting President Adhemar Ghisi. The PF turned over to the TCU a file on the case because, on instructions from Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre, the TCU will begin a special audit of Cabo Frio foundation accounts on Monday, 17 July.

Once the audit is over, the reports will be submitted to the National Attorney General who will relay them to the PF to be included in the investigation. Testifying will begin next week.

More on Cabo Frio Connection

PY1807215089 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jul 89 p 15

[Text] Itamaraty has decided to keep mum on the "Cabo Frio Connection" until the internal investigation is over. This decision was made by Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, secretary general of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry and chairman of the Cabo Frio Foundation. From the very first report on irregularities, the top echelon of the ministry was aware that the Federal Police suspected that drugs could be involved.

At least 1 week ago, presidential advisers, such as Civilian Household Chief Ronaldo de Costa Couto, were aware that the investigation would include the possibility of drug trafficking.

PCB Confirms Freire, Arouca Candidacies

PY1807021889 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jul 89 p 6-A

[Text] Roberto Freire, presidential candidate for the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], yesterday presented an emergency economic proposal to be implemented during President Sarney's administration. The proposal was presented during a PCB convention at Rio de Janeiro city council. Some of the suggested measures are aimed at "organizing the economy for the upcoming president." They include the suspension of payments on the foreign debt, the suspension of credit and debt operations between state enterprises, the revision of all subsidies and incentives and their elimination, and Central Bank control of all remittance operations. During the convention, the PCB confirmed the presidential candidacies of Roberto Freire and Sergio Arouca.

Freire explained that the PCB is working on a more strategic economic program, based on the latest World Bank report. He said the PCB will support greater state intervention in the economy, a tax increase, and greater

control of operations by the financial system. "The banks must fulfill their function and finance the productive sectors. If the banks fail to do so, we must nationalize them," he said.

In Freire's opinion, the World Bank reports state that the Brazilian Government is almost never present in the national economy. "The crisis is more a result of the government's lack of participation in the economy. The Brazilian Government has not been able to induce economic growth and has privatized several sectors," he said. Freire believes foreign debt negotiations should be conducted at "high levels," and, preferably, under UN auspices. "The main problem is not the public deficit. This is not fundamental. What I am trying to do is to give the people a real idea of what the left is," he said. Freire criticized Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, Workers Party presidential candidate; and Mario Covas, Brazilian Social Democratic Party presidential candidate, because they said the public deficit is the Brazilian economy's main problem.

Freire said he is satisfied with the results of the last polls, such as the one conducted by "Datafolha," which indicated that his supporters increased from 1 percent to 2 percent. "The poll indicates a tendency, and our tendency is to grow," Freire said. According to him, the PCB obtained more support in Pernambuco State, where the polls showed that 8 percent of the people support the PCB. In Rio de Janeiro, where the PCB has 14,000 registered members, 3 percent of the voters support the party.

The PCB national convention held at the City Council yesterday was attended by 24 of its 34 party delegates. According to Francisco Milani, the convention was held in Rio de Janeiro because the PCB organization in this city is better than in other parts of the country. After confirming Freire and Arouca's candidacies, the PCB held a "political rally and variety show" in Cinelandia [part of downtonw Rio where most movie theaters are concentrated], where most of former Governor Leonel Brizola's—Democratic Labor Party, PDT—supporters meet. Singers Noca and Paulinho da Viola were scheduled to appear at the show.

Soviets To Buy Brazilian Automation System

PY1807180789 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jul 89 p 17

[Text] The Soviets are really coming to Brazil. They have already exported about 300 machine tools to Brazil, and they are interested in investing in a more sophisticated market through an agreement with Altus Computer Science System company that manufactures Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) [Controles Numericos Computarizados] in Rio de Grando do Sul State. The CNC is an industrial automation system.

According to Ricardo Felizzola, director of the Altus Computer Science System Company, 70 percent of the industrial sector lacks an automation system and the agreement signed with the Soviet establishes that the Altus company will manufacture automatic systems to be installed on the equipment that has been already exported to Brazil. As Soviets do not have this type of technology, the machines that they export do not have the CNC.

Felizzola explained that during the first stage of the negotiations with the Soviet Union, the machines sold to Brazil will have the CNC system's that are manufactured by the Altus company. The second stage envisages the direct export of CNC to the Soviet Union.

In the third stage experts from Altus and their Soviet counterparts will engage in a most daring joint venture: Brazilian experts will be responsible for the projects of automatic systems for specialized machines ordered from the Soviets.

In 1988, Altus received orders for equipment worth $5.6 million (10.7 million cruzeiros at the official exchange rate). This represents an increase of 56 percent in Altus' exports. Altus is expected to receive orders for equipment worth $6.5 million (12.4 million cruzeiros) this year. According to Felizzola, Altus seeks to become, by 1992, an international supplier without having to depend on foreign companies.

$3.6 Billion Trade-Balance Surplus in June

PY1807011889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] CACEZ [Foreign Trade Department of Bank of Brazil] has made public the results of the trade balance in June, when the value of exports reached $3.6 billion.

The trade-balance registered a $2.2 billion surplus in June, which is a record in Brazil's foreign trade, according to CACEX. During the first 6 months of this year, the trade balance registered a surplus of $9.2 billion, surpassing by 6.56 percent the surplus for the same period of 1988. Exports in June amounted to $3.6 billion against $1.4 billion in imports. Imports now total $7.5 billion for the first half of this year.

Based on those results, CACEX projects this year's exports to reach about $32.5 billion, and imports $16.5 billion. These expected results should yield a surplus of $16 billion, which is about $3.5 billion lower than last year.

Chile

Panamanian Presidency Minister Begins Visit

PY1807023289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2032 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Santiago, 17 Jul (EFE)—Panamanian Presidency Minister Nander Pitty Velazquez has arrived in Chile on an official visit at the invitation of Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz.

Pitty Velazquez said he came to Chile "at the express request of the president of the Republic [not further specified]. We have a special feeling about Chile and are interested in maintaining good bilateral relations."

The Panamanian minister will stay in Chile for 3 days. During his visit he will meet with representatives of the Chilean military government, political leaders, and businessmen.

Chilean Embassy Established in Malaysia
PY1807220289 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Jul 89 p C-5

[Text] Chile's charge d'affairs in Malaysia, Ronald Geiger Garay, yesterday presented his credentials to Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan.

With that presentation, the establishment of the first resident ambassador of Chile in that country was formalized.

Until now, relations between Chile and Malaysia have been maintained at the level of concurrent ambassadorship with those in Indonesia and Buenos Aires, respectively.

Public Service Announcement on 30 Jul Plebiscite
PY1807015089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Public service announcement: "Plebiscite in Chile"]

[Text] On 30 July, the Chilean people will cast their votes to confirm their support for the current Constitution which has been in effect since 11 March 1981. Through this second plebiscite, the Chileans will make this Constitution even more legal.

On 11 March 1989, the president of the Republic announced to the country that the government intended to modify the constitution to improve it, to adjust it to the new reality in Chile, and to ensure a more effective transition into full democracy.

On 30 July, the people's votes will be of tremendous importance because all constitutions must faithfully reflect the will of the societies over which they will rule. Therefore, it is indispensable that the current Constitution be modified in keeping with the evolution Chilean society will experience.

Aylwin Publicly Nominated Presidential Candidate
PY1707202689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0055 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Santiago, 16 Jul (EFE)—Patricio Aylwin, a presidential candidate for the Chilean opposition, today officially launched his campaign for the general election to be held on 14 December 1989.

In a rally in Santiago, addressing tens of thousands of people, the Christian Democratic Party leader said that if he wins the election his government will be engaged in three priority tasks.

The first task, he said, will be to democratize the Chilean institutions after more than 16 years of a military regime, the second task will be to implement justice in matters involving human rights; and lastly, the third task will be to implement an economic and social policy that, along with promoting the country's development, will put an end to the injustices and inequalities that affect a large number of Chileans.

"The people do not want more violence, they demand the establishment of a new, civilized, and democratic way of coexistence," Aylwin said.

Aylwin and the main leaders of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy (CPPD) were present on the rostrum.

The CPPD includes 17 right, center, and moderate left parties that reject the military government of General Augusto Pinochet.

Aylwin was nominated presidential candidate 2 weeks ago, on the eve of his trip to Buenos Aires in response to an invitation to attend the inauguration of Carlos Menem as Argentine head of state.

Today's rally marked the beginning of a campaign that will last until the eve of the general election on 14 December 1989. Chilean flags were conspicuously displayed at the rally as a symbol of the unity prevailing among the opposition forces.

The sponsors asked the people who were planning to attend to come without the banners or placards of their respective parties, but to display the slogan of "Aylwin for President."

The opposition candidate—who arrived at the rally at about 1300 local time (1700 GMT)—was hailed and applauded. He was greeted by Alejandro Hales, who sought a nomination for presidential candidate, and by socialist leader Ricardo Lagos, the president of the Party for Democracy (PPD).

Lagos, who in December will be a senatorial candidate for Santiago, praised the unity spirit prevailing in the opposition, and the fact that this spirit resulted in General Pinochet's defeat in the plebiscite of October 1988.

"The people already delivered their verdict in October and now they will merely confirm it, demonstrating that the vast majority of Chileans want liberty, democracy, and peace," the PPD leader said.

Lagos explained that "this is the time to look to the future, aware of the fact that history belongs to us and that the path that we have chosen will take us to full democracy."

Two rightwing candidates, Hernan Buchi, who was finance minister in the Pinochet regime and who is supported by the Independent Democratic Union; and Francisco Javier Errazuriz, a banker and businessman, were nominated presidential candidates last Thursday.

Aylwin Ahead in Polls

PY1807233089 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 8 Jul 89 p 8

[Text] The polls conducted by the Public Studies Center [CEP] and by Adimark show that opposition presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin would receive 12.9 percent more votes than the independent presidential candidate Hernan Buchi.

The polls were conducted in Great Santiago, Antofagasta, Valparaiso, Vina del Mar, Concepcion, and Talcahuano between 19 June and 2 July. The number of people interviewed represent 47 percent of the country's population over 18 years old.

Figures obtained between March and June 1989 show that 52.7 percent of the questioned people support Aylwin, while 39.8 percent support Buchi. Therefore, Aylwin has 12.9 percent more votes than Buchi.

In March, the figures stood at 52.9 percent for Aylwin and 37.3 percent for Buchi. The difference between the two candidates was 15.6 percent. The poll also indicates that, during this period, Aylwin's advantage dropped by 0.2 percent, while Buchi obtained 2.5 percent more than in the previous poll.

Without establishing comparisons, the poll asked the people to answer spontaneously on whom they would vote if they could "choose anyone" to be the president of the Republic. The answers showed that 28 percent of the people would choose Aylwin; 26 percent would choose Buchi; 8 percent would choose [former Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe] Errazuriz; 7 percent would choose [National Renewal Chairman Sergio Onofre] Jarpa; 4 percent would choose President Pinochet; 4 percent would choose [Party for Democracy Chairman Ricardo] Lagos; and 3 percent would choose [former President Frei's son Eduardo] Frei. Some 12 percent of the questioned people answered they would choose other people, and 8 percent said they did not know whom they would choose.

A poll comparing preferences for Aylwin and for Jarpa showed that 57.3 percent of the people would support Aylwin and 30.1 would support Jarpa. The difference between the two candidates is thus 27.2 percent. In March, however, Aylwin was supported by 59 percent of those questioned, while Jarpa was supported only by 24.1 percent. This shows that Aylwin has lost 1.6 percent of the votes while Jarpa obtained 6 percent more.

The poll also compared preferences for the two center-right candidates (Jarpa and Buchi) with Aylwin. The results showed that 50.5 percent of the people would support Aylwin, 31.5 percent would support Buchi, and 11.7 percent would suport Jarpa.

Controversy Surrounds Land Occupation, Clashes

1 Subversive Killed, 2 Injured

PY1707210489 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Following the illegal occupation of land in La Quintana shantytown, 1 person has been killed, at least 2 were injured, and more than 200 have been detained.

The incidents started a little after 0900 this morning, when some 700 people of the Metropolitan Slum-Dwellers Coordinating Board occupied the Salvador Dali shantytown in Concepcion, on San Francisco and Venancio Ramos Streets.

According to a leader of the Coordinating Board, the homeless families came from various parts of Santiago to protest over not having anywhere to live. The Carabineros arrived at the shantytown, which was surrounded by barricades, to dislodge the families. As a result, tragic clashes occurred, a woman—identified as Rosa Carril, about 23 years old—was killed, at least two other slum dwellers were injured, and two babies were almost suffocated.

The Carabineros officer, who is in charge of the Metropolitan area, went to the shantytown to investigate the incidents.

The coordinated action of subversives who attacked the Carabineros is tragic, Carabineros Deputy Director General Jorge Portilla has reported. He said:

[Begin Portilla recording] When the Carabineros personnel dislodged the people from the shantytown that they had illegally and criminally occupied, some 200 people were detained for causing disorders; 2 suffered bullet injuries; and 1 was killed. This person has not yet been indentified. [end recording]

Carabineros Discuss Occupation

PY1807211289 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Jul 89

[By Reinaldo Berrios]

[Excerpts] A woman was shot dead during a clash between Carabineros and shantytown dwellers in a thwarted attempt to occupy land in the Salvador Dali shantytown. This shantytown is under construction and

is located near bus stop No. 30 of Santa Rosa District. The woman has been officially indentified by police sources as Laura Rosa Mendez Vasquez, 27.

People who were participating in the land occupation initially reported that the person killed was Rosa Carril, 23, who was reported to be 7-months pregnant when the incident occurred. This has been denied by the sources contacted by Radio Chilena. These sources indicated that only an autopsy, which will be performed on the woman's body at the Forensic Institute offices, will finally determine if the woman was pregnant.

According to reports, Laura Mendez Vasquez' home was in Linares, but she was living with some relatives in La Quintana shantytown.

Carabineros sources have reported that 284 people took part in the land occupation. They were detained and placed at the disposal of the Santiago Second Military Court. [passage omitted]

Regarding those who were injured during the clashes, only two remain at the Barrio Luco Hospital in view of their serious condition. The four others, who were in the Sotero del Rio Hospital, were released yesterday afternoon together with the injured people who had been treated at other hospitals.

Caceres Accuses Communists

PY1807202689 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Caceres today stated that the gang-style action taken yesterday by some people to occupy private property will not intimidate the government.

[Begin Caceres recording] Yesterday, a well-organized group of approximately 300 people attempted to usurp private property using Molotov cocktails, stones and firearms. Their action caused one unfortunate death, injuries, and damage—which were reported earlier—to the detriment of a large number of poor families.

It is publicly evident that the communists and their closest allies were behind the preparation, coordination and execution of these criminals actions.

Unfortunately, one cannot fail to link these actions to the threatening, violent speeches—following the style used by the Popular Unity members—with which some leaders of the opposition coalition opened the electoral campaign of their candidate Patricio Aylwin.

It is even possible to regard these aggressions as signals and warnings of the inconsistencies and contradictions that exist within some political umbrella groups. These groups consist of sectors advocating a peaceful democratic coexistence on the one hand, and other sectors that follow the line of those who in the past destroyed our traditional way of life on the other hand.

Although the government has stated its decision not to get involved in the political campaign, it cannot fail to announce its position and to state its outright rejection of a malicious and demagogical rhetoric that poses a threat to public tranquillity.

Under no circumstances will the government yield to those who time and again seek to promote subversion and to disrupt our democratic institutional order. [end recording]

Government Repeats Accusations

PY1907032689 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has said that, if a preponderantly Communist administration is elected, the occupation of shantytowns, similar to the one at La Bandera, will continue.

The Navy commander in chief pointed out that the Communists are trying to create a special situation to force the government to declare a state of emergency. But, Merino said, they will not succeed in forcing the government to do so.

Adm Merino made these comments after presiding over a legislative session at the Diego Portales Building.

[Begin recording] [Merino] If the administration to be elected ends up with a large number of Communist members, there will be other occupations like the one that took place yesterday, when homes were plundered, houses under construction were destroyed, and an important work was paralyzed only because some people decided to damage and destroy the properties the state—the Housing Ministry —is building for the less [as heard] destitute.

This is a maneuver the Chilean Communist Party is using to force the government to declare a state of emergency instead of letting us live in the normal state we have now. According to the law, if the government declares a state of emergency, there can be no plebiscite.

[Reporter] Therefore, if there are other occupations, the government (can declare a state of emergency)?

[Merino] That is what they want, but we will not do it. We will not declare a state of emergency; we will only beat the people harder [word indistinct]. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PAIS Leader Announces Executive Board Members

PY1807154089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Summary] PAIS [Broad Party of the Socialist Left] President Luis Maira has reported that the PAIS executive board has been renewed. He pointed out that he will remain president and that Ricardo Solari will continue in his current post as PAIS secretary general.

The new PAIS vice presidents are Denis Pascal, Manuel Riesco, Humberto Martones, and Francisco Rivas. Carlos Molina is now the PAIS treasurer.

Creation of New Political Movement Announced

PY1807221089 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Jul 89 p C-2

[Text] The creation of a new political organization under the name of National Authentic Movement [Movimiento Nacional Autentico] has been announced by its provisional president Adolfo Yevenes, who explained that the new organization is made up of former members of the National Party and the Centrist National-Liberal Alliance Party.

At its founding assembly, the MNA decided to support candidates for the Senate, who will run as independent candidates, for the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth regions.

Government Security Agents Arrest Three People

PY1907025289 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 89

[By Arnoldo Carreras]

[Text] Injunction petitions were filed on behalf of three people who were arrested at their homes this morning by armed men in uniform and plainsclothesmen.

The first two people to be arrested were a couple: Engineer (Marino Strosa), 29, who works at the telephone company; and his wife teacher (Carmen Cecilia Alvarez Paunder), 26, who is 8-months pregnant. The arrested teacher went on maternity leave only 2 weeks ago.

The injunction petitions were filed by the teacher's mother through a lawyer of the Vicariate of Solidarity and of the Committee for the Defense of People's Rights [CODEPU]. The petition states that at about 0800 this morning, a large group of civilians and military men took the couple from their home at 110 La Palmeras Street, La Florida District, at about bus stop No 12 of Vicuna-Mackenna Avenue.

Although relatives and neighbors have identified the members of the (GOPE) [Special Police Operations Group], Carabineros and Investigative Police personnel did not report on the detained couple's whereabouts.

At about 1000 this morning, unidentified civilians took Marcelo Mendoza Lucero, a student of the Audio-Visual Communications Course who lives at 7479 East 11th Street, in Joao Goulart shantytown, La Granja District. Last Friday, 14 July, Mendoza Lucero finished serving a night-imprisonment sentence.

The Slum-Dwellers Metropolitan Coordinating Board has reported that Carabineros and Investigative Police personnel went to the home of slum-dwellers leader Eduardo Valencia at 2200 last night to arrest him, but Valencia was not home.

So far, the reasons for these detentions have not been made clear.

Colombia

More on Replacement of Four Cabinet Ministers

PA1907042689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] The 24 Hours newscast has learned that the current Education Minister Manuel Francisco Becerra Barney was the frontrunner to replace Government Minister Raul Orejuela Bueno; however, at the last minute, the government decided to appoint constitutional law expert [constitucionalista] Orlando Vasquez Velasquez.

Colombians are wondering why these four ministers were replaced. The 24 Hours newscast has learned from official sources the reasons behind the cabinet changes.

Minister Orejuela's downfall was brought about by the kidnapping of his nephew, whom he loves as an adopted son. This incident destroyed him emotionally and kept him from carrying out his duties for 2 months. Another reason was a change in presidential policy. Orejuela was appointed minister at a time when achieving peace was the priority. That objective suited his temperament as a physician and diplomat well. A constitutional amendment is the new objective and that is why a full-time constitutional law expert was appointed to succeed him.

[Mines and Energy] Minister Oscar Mejia was forced to resign because an imminent ELN [Army of National Liberation] attempt on his life was discovered and because it is clear that the state is unable to protect him. ELN guerrillas will not forgive him for blaming them for an increase in gasoline prices or for his refusal to convoke a forum on national oil policy despite the threats that were made against him. Ironically, Mejia was conciliatory toward the guerrillas when he became minister and suggested outright that a dialogue with the ELN was necessary. The government called him on the carpet for this, and Mejia was forced to back down on this point. Mejia was the only one of the four ministers who stepped down voluntarily.

The Wanumen Papers were the beginning of the end for Defense Minister [General Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz]. These papers definitely distanced him from General Alfredo Maza. In a significant move, DAS [Administrative Department of Security] Director Maza sent the papers to the attorney general instead of the Defense Ministry. Gen Guerrero tried to play down the importance of the evidence and even referred contemptuously to the papers.

The DAS director—and this was unknown to the country at that time—tendered his resignation to the President Barco, who turned it down. Then came the attack on the Covenas pipeline terminal. This and many other guerrilla attacks reinforced the feeling that the Armed Forces had lowered their guard. The change at the ministry is an attempt to bring about an attitude change.

The uncomplicated and open style of [Justice Minister Guillermo] Plazas Alcid did not suit the government. Moreover, Minister Plazas appointed someone not liked by the government, and, in turn, the government appointed two individuals that Plazas did not like either.

Plazas appointed Jaime Bernal Cuellar as government adviser under contract. Bernal lashed out at the Barco administration's banner project, that is, the public order tribunals. Meanwhile, the government, without consulting Plazas, appointed his deputy and the prisons director, which showed how little he was valued within the government.

Government Appoints New Military Leaders

PA1907010189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0032 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] This is a last-minute report: The national government has just issued a decree appointing new top National Army officers:

General Jose Nelson Mejia Henao was appointed general commander of the military forces; Major General Jesus Armando Arias Cabrales was appointed Army commander; Major General Luis Eduardo Roca was named commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Major General Daniel Enrique Garcia Echeverry was made the new deputy commander in chief of Army staff.

M-19 Leader: Group Could Form Political Party

PA1807164089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Interview with 19 April Movement (M-19) leader Carlos Pizarro Leongomez by unidentified reporter on 17 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] An important step toward peace in Colombia was taken today when the government and the M-19 signed an agreement for your group's gradual demobilization and return to civilian life. What will be the most important aspects to be considered during this new phase of the peace process?

[Pizarro] What do you mean by other aspects?

[Reporter] Such as the creation of a political party...

[Pizarro, interrupting] If we manage to advance and reach agreements, and if we really achieve a broad political pact for peace, we will create a legal party. It will be a great party that many people will support. It will represent a history of many years, and it will also represent the destiny and dreams of our continent for the 21st century.

[Reporter] Could this be in the next elections, or is it too late?

[Pizarro] We still have time, because an agreement must be reached before the elections. Many Colombians want us to participate in the elections, and so do we. We will see; we hope we can.

[Reporter] Will you be the M-19 party's presidential candidate?

[Pizarro] No, I am not a candidate yet.

[Reporter] Presidential hopeful?

[Pizarro] No, I am not a presidential hopeful either.

Police Rescue Businessman; 6 Kidnappers Killed

PA1907014789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2359 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Bogota, 18 Jul (EFE)—The Colombian Police today rescued Manuel Vallejo Uribe, a businessman, who they found unharmed. During the rescue operation, the police killed six kidnappers, according to an offical police report.

Vallejo Uribe, 32, was released in Bello, near Medellin, the second largest city in Colombia, as the result of intelligence gathered by the metropolitan police, police sources added.

The businessman, who owns a tannery and spends most of his time in Miami, was kidnapped on 9 July by several unknown persons.

The police reported that during the Bello rescue operation, six kidnappers, all common criminals who tried to prevent the police from rescuing him, were killed.

Army Continues 'Operation Jupiter' in Arauca

PA1807224589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] This morning, troops of the Army's 5th Division continued to comb the mountain area near Tame and Saravena in eastern Colombia. The military deployment is part of Operation Jupiter being carried out in Arauca to seek to control the so-called National Liberation Army [ELN] operating in the region. Carlos Mario Diaz visited the region and talked to civilian and military authorities there.

[Begin recording] [Diaz] Over 2,000 Army and police troops in Arauca are carrying out Operation Jupiter to counteract ELN terrorist actions. The last two attacks on the Cano-Limon Covenas pipeline occurred in the Arauquita rural area, bordering Tame municipality. Four soldiers were killed and five were wounded during clashes with the ELN. The casualties inflicted on the rebels have not yet been determined. Civilians are afraid and peasants are already fleeing the area.

[Unidentified speaker] If the situation continues [words indistinct].

[Diaz] There are disagreements between the civilian and the military authorities concerning the Army and the police operations.

[Arauquita Mayor Amparo Lopez] We currently have a very serious problem because of the Army bombings. We have received reports from peasants saying the Army has tortured them and raided and sacked their houses. The situation is deplorable.

[Arauca Military Intendant Colonel Fernando Gonzalez] People have expressed their solidarity, support, and happiness because the Army has come to an area in conflict because of the rebels. [Diaz] The area between Tame, Arauquita, and Saravena is the most affected by the clashes. Leaflets condemning the attacks to the pipeline and urging citizens to report subversive actions are being distributed among area residents.

The oil spill is spreading along the Arauca River. The waters are contaminated and huge economic losses have reduced the revenues of every municipality that receives royalties from the oil exploitation. It is estimated that revenues have been reduced by 45 percent. [end recording]

Venezuela

Perez Meets With Nicaraguan Opposition Leaders

PA1807221289 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 12 Jul 89 Sec I pp 15

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez met National Opposition Unity [UNO] leaders on 10 July and discussed the democratization process in Nicaragua.

The meeting was attended by Virgilio Godoy, Alfredo Cesar, Adan Fletes, and Emilio Alvarez Montalvan, and lasted approximately 2 hours. Those attending the meeting discussed the Nicaraguan democratization process and the objectives to be fulfilled during this process, in accordance with the Tesoro Beach agreements signed in El Salvador during the presidential summit.

The UNO representatives expressed to President Perez their viewpoints regarding the need to update and improve as soon as possible some technical procedures for the elections that will be held in Nicaragua on 25 February 1990.

The Nicaraguan opposition leaders yesterday met Jose Rodriguez Iturbe, chairman of the chamber of deputies. Today they will meet Supreme Electoral Tribunal President Carlos Delgado Chapellin.

Initiative by Perez, Cuba May End Panama Crisis

PA1807213889 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Jul 89 p D-1

[By Txomin las Heras]

[Text] Reliable diplomatic sources have reported that a new Latin American effort to resolve the crisis in Panama is currently under way at the request of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and with the active participation of Cuban authorities. The sources added that the efforts may even include General [Manuel Antonio] Noriega's stepdown.

High-level meetings held at Maiquetia Airport on Sunday and in Havana on Monday were aimed in that direction. According to reports, the first such meeting was attended by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, and Simon Alberto Consalvi, Venezuelan ambassador to the United States.

Quite possibly, another participant was Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, because he was returning from a visit to Guyana within the framework of his official visit to Venezuela at the time the meeting was being held.

At the meeting, Presidents Perez and Ortega discussed the elections in Nicaragua. According to unconfirmed reports, the Venezuelan president demanded—as a condition for Venezuela to continue its cooperation concerning the elections—that a fifth, impartial member be appointed to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. Perez had met the previous evening at Miraflores Palace with four members of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity to discuss these latest developments.

The second meeting, which was held in the Cuban capital to discuss the situation in Panama, was attended by Ambassador Consalvi and Reynaldo Figueredo, minister secretary of the Presidency. They arrived in Havana

aboard a private jet on Sunday at midnight, shortly after the brief and unexpected meeting at Maiquetia Airport. It has been learned that the two officials attended an important meeting, but nothing is known about the remaining participants. It has been rumored, however, that President Fidel Castro attended it himself. Consalvi returned to Caracas on Monday afternoon and has met with government officials and diplomats since then.

The hectic diplomatic activity in the Caribbean of the past few days coincides with the expiration, on 19 July, of the deadline given to the OAS commission to work out a political solution to the Panamanian crisis. The efforts of the commission—which is composed of the Trinidadian and Tobagan, Guatemalan, and Ecuadoran foreign ministers—are stalemated and this has prompted other governments in the region to launch a diplomatic offensive at the highest level to break the impasse.

State Department officials in Washington; General Marc Cisneros, commanding general, U.S. Army South; and even Otto Reich, the outgoing U.S. ambassador to Venezuela, have been making strong statements as the deadline of the OAS mission draws near, openly speaking of a trade embargo and military intervention in Panama.

Apparently, the OAS mission has concluded that the solution to the Panamanian crisis lies in holding new elections before September, when the constitutional presidential term expires. However, the Panamanian opposition demands that Gen Noriega relinquish power before the elections.

This scenario could be the explanation for President Perez' new initiative, which is reportedly supported by the Nicaraguan and Cuban government leaders, who can exert stronger influence on the Panamanian strongman. Perez's recent meeting with Panamanian opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon would be part of these negotiations.

More on Panama Negotiations

PA1807125489 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The Venezuelan Government is involved in diplomatic efforts to find a solution in Panama. Simon Alberto Consalvi, Venezuelan ambassador to the United States, is involved in these efforts.

Ambassador Consalvi described his mission as secret. For this reason, he would not comment on his recent trip to Havana. He only said he is involved in a series of political contacts with top leaders of the region in the search for a solution to the Panamanian crisis.

[Begin Consalvi recording] The solution would be an initiative by the Panamanian Government for a democratic transfer of power while preserving the Panamanian people's rights, the inviolability of the canal treaties—Latin America is committed to this—and Panama's democratization. We should bear in mind that 1 September marks the end of Panama's current presidential term, and it will be a good time to begin a new stage. [end recording]

Kidnappers Ask for Advice on Perez Relative

PA1807162889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1602 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The kidnappers of cattleman Norberto Rodriguez [President Perez' brother-in-law] have made a single phone call. They asked for detailed instructions on the medicines that Rodriguez needs to stay alive, because his health is extremely delicate. [passage omitted]

Government Plans To Modernize VENPRES

PA1807224889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Summary] Pastor Heydra, director of the Central Information Office, has announced the Presidency's approval of a plan for the internationalization and modernization of VENPRES. The purpose of this reorganization is to broaden the range of duties of foreign correspondents so that Venezuela can project a more active and coordinated presence in various countries of the world. So far, the government is considering a VENPRES presence in countries such as the United States, Mexico, Central America, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and the Netherlands Antilles.

Guyana

President in Scotland, To Visit Venezuela, Brazil

FL1807152289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte is in Edinburgh, Scotland to deliver the main lecture at the Commonwealth Conference on Development of Human Ecology.

Mr Hoyte has announced plans to be part of a team of Caribbean leaders who will be meeting in Venezuela early next month. They will discuss closer cooperation between Guyana and English-speaking nations in the region.

The Guyanese leader says he'll soon be paying a visit to Brazil as well. There he'll discuss economic matters with President Jose Sarney.

Britain Provides 13.7 Million Pound Grant

FL1107154589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2009 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 9, CANA—Guyana and Britain signed four agreements on Sunday under which Guyana will receive nearly 15 million pounds sterling in aid and a U.S. 8 million dollar interest-free

loan. The agreements were signed by Guyana's Finance Minister Carl Greenidge and British Minister for Overseas Development Christopher Patten, now on a two-day visit here.

The major agreement covers a 13.7 million pound grant for balance of payments support, six million pounds of which is scheduled for disbursement this year—the first year of the Guyana government's three year Economic Recovery Programme (ERP). A second agreement covers the U.S. 8 million interest-free loan to be used specifically to help Guyana clear its arrears with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the World Bank.

Guyana's clearing its arrears with these multilateral financial institutions is a crucial element in its ERP for it must first clear its arrears with them to restore eligibility for assistance.

The interest-free loan ("bridging finance") from the U.K. will be repayable by Guyana in a two-year period commencing six months after disbursement which is likely to take place around November this year.

The third agreement is worth 0.6 million pounds in technical assistance for the Public Service Ministry for its rationisation and institutional strengthening programmes.

Under the fourth agreement, the local employers organisation, the Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry (CAGI) will receive 0.3 million pounds in technical assistance to strengthen its capability to formulate and execute management training for business and industry.

At a brief signing ceremony here, Patten said Britain very much admired "the political courage" the Guyana Government has shown in putting in place its ERP. He said Britain and other donors will continue to provide Guyana with as much assistance as possible and continue to play a positive role in international discussions and negotiations about Guyana's present and future economic policies.

He said Britain hopes that Guyana's economic policies bring the success they deserve and looks forward to being able to regard its aid partnership with Guyana as an important step in Guyana's progress. He stressed, however, that Guyana becoming stronger and more economically independent rests on "the strength of the resourcesfulness of the Guyanese people." And, in response to questions from CANA about the marked improvements in relations between Britain and Guyana in recent months, the British minister said: "I think that we have come nearer to an accommodation of views on a number of major, international, economic, and other issues", he said.

He added: "I think it is fair to say that we have, occasionally, had our disagreement in the past about economic and even...political matters. But we are both members of the same wider family—the commonwealth." Patten will keep a busy schedule in Guyana, including meeting with acting President Hamilton Green and government minister.

Opposition Coalition Challenges Hoyte to Talks

FL1407171589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1456 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 14, CANA—Guyana's loose opposition coalition, the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD), is trying to find a consensus arrangement amongst its members through which it hopes to bring the government to the conference table for talks on electoral reform. But while some members of the coalition believe that elections, constitutionally due by December next year could be held as early as November this year, the PCD remains bogged down after three months of trying to decide who should be its spokesman.

PCD member, the Working People's Alliance (WPA), told a press confernece on Thursday that the new initiative within the PCD is based on the WPA's contention that the opposition should test a statement made by President Desmond Hoyte last April 8.

Hoyte, who has consistently refused to meet with the PCD, said in an interview with "STABROEK NEWS" newspaper:

"I find it difficult to deal with an organisation in which I don't know who the spokesman is. If I deal with the PCD or any organisation, I must be able to sit down with the leader or spokesman and arrive at decisions that are binding. I don't want to waste time with a number of people saying different things when there is no one I can hold accountable for agreements we have arrived at and I have said that to them."

The PCD was formed in Janauary 1986 by five opposition political parties which contend that the December 1985 elections won by the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) were rigged.

The WPA said it considered Hoyte's statement a "new posture" and it suggested to the PCD that Hoyte should be taken up on it. It said it suggested in April that the PCD should select a lawyer trained in electoral procedures to be the spokesperson but though this was later amended to "an attorney-at-law or a similarly qualified political scientist," the proposal was defeated by the position that the spokesperson should come from within the PCD.

It subsequently recommended that leader of the Democratic Labour Movement (DLM) Paul Tennassee, "as a new person" on the political scene, by the spokesman but that recommendation also failed to gain the necessary consesus.

"The WPA finally proposed that Dr (Cheddi) Jagan, the People's Progressive Party nominee (and leader) should be the spokesperson and the recommendation is still being examined in the PCD," the WPA said. It said it recommended Jagan and Tennassee not because the WPA "shares their political outlook" but because it felt they are "competent enough to conduct the negotiations supported by advisers from all the member parties."

Meanwhile, WPA co-leader, Mr Eusi Kwayana, stressed at the press conference that his party's position is that a spokesman, and not a leader, should be named in order to avoid different versions of the talks being fed to the public.

Kwayana said while the PCD has been struggling for electoral talks with Hoyte since 1986, the need for talks has taken on a new urgency because of the possibility of elections being held before next year or even next year under the same or similar arrangements to those of 1985. He pointed to the recent Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government end-of-summit communique in which statements were made about democracy in Haiti and Panama—statements to which Hoyte subscribed.

He said this was an important development because Hoyte has never before subscribed to such statements. "Perhaps, the time is coming when the People's National Congress will be swept away in the wave of democracy now sweeping across the region," Kwayana said.

The WPA also referred to a statement attributed to Hoyte during his recent state visit to Barbados, when he reportedly said he was "considering action to ensure that arrangements (for elections) are known to comply with the norms or due regularity" but he was not going to "tip" his hand at that stage. The WPA declares that Hoyte should tip his hand as early as possible.

"The people of Guyana cannot be treated by the executive president in this high-handled manner. First of all, elections are no game of cards. Secondly, on the face of it, all players take part in controlling a game of cards. In any case, elections are of maximum public concern.

Suriname

Vice President Begins Talks in Netherlands

FL1207143389 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Although the political discussions between Vice President Henck Arron and the Dutch development cooperation minister, Piet Bukman have not been rounded off yet, there are signs that the discussions are going in the right direction, according to the daily DE WARE TIJD. The official discussions between both countries have in the meantime been started. The rest of the delegation led by the vice president participates in these official discussions.

Vice President Henck Arron is at the moment in Holland leading a delegation to hold discussions with the Dutch Government on the resumption of the development cooperation. The discussion on this matter reached a deadlock earlier this week [as heard] when both countries were not in agreement on the rules of procedure for the execution of the development treaty. The discussions were started yesterday but nothing has been known about the content.

Today, the political discussions between Arron and Bukman will continue. The vice president will also have a meeting with the Second Chamber Commission for Development Cooperation. Today, Vice President Arron will also pay a visit to the survivors of the June 7th airplane disaster who reside in Holland.

Agreement Reached on Aid

LD1307131489 Hilversum International Service in English 1130 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] After 3 days of talks in The Hague, Suriname and the Netherlands have agreed to resume their development program after a 6-year interruption. Within a few months the development money Suriname is entitled to will be paid in stages. All told, Paramaribo is entitled to around $600 million, to be paid over an 8-year period. The talks in The Hague between Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation Piet Bukman and Surinamese Prime Minister Henck Arron removed a major stumbling block, which was the way in which the money should be paid. The two countries have now agreed that the money will be released per project and per program, rather than in lump sums.

Vice President Holds Conference

FL1407033389 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] The World Bank and the IMF don't pay enough attention to the negative social consequences of their programs. This was stated by Vice President Henck Arron yesterday during a press conference in the Hague.

Arron has held discussions with the Dutch Government about the resumption of the development cooperation. Suriname knows the consequences of (?adaptation) programs, such as those proposed by the international financing institutions, said Arron. Therefore, we will formulate our own development recipes in consultation with the European Community, according to Arron. In the [word indistinct] work, Arron will today and tomorrow hold discussions in Brussels with the Belgian Government and the director of the European Community.

Peace Talks To Begin With Rebel Leader

FL1307150489 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] In Suriname, Prime Minister Henck Arron says his government will begin formal peace talks with rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk. The talks will begin on Monday [17 July] in French Guiana. He said in a news conference he hopes the talks will help end 3 years of unrest in the former Dutch colony.

Mr Arron is in the Hague where he has reached agreement with the Netherlands on resuming development aid after a 6-year interruption. In a few months, Suriname will begin receiving the first stages of nearly $600 million in assistance.

Shankar Installs Delegation

FL1207141489 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] President Ramsewak Shankar yesterday installed the government delegation which will hold peace talks with the terrorist gang of Ronnie Brunswijk. The delegation is being chaired by Education Minister Ronald Venetiaan and also includes Justice Minister Jules Ajodhia and the minister of social affairs, Willy Soemita.

Assembly members Lachmon, Nooitmeer, and Belgrave [Jaggernath Lachmon, Rufus Nooitmeer, and Milton Belgrave] have been added to the delegation as advisors. The delegation will next week hold talks with the delegation from the terrorists in Kourou, French Guiana.

Rebels Pleased With Negotiations

FL1207135589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Suriname's rebels are pleased that negotiations with the government will resume. The talks will take place in French Guiana and will solidify a cease-fire already in place. The government delegation will include such top officials as Prime Minister Henck Arron and Parliament Speaker Jaggernath Lachmon.

Lachmon 'Optimistic' on Outcome

FL1707152889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] A Surinamese delegation travels to French Guiana today for peace talks with rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk. The delegation includes three Surinamese cabinet ministers and three parliamentarians led by speaker Jaggernath Lachmon.

Last month, Mr Lachmon and Mr Brunswijk signed a cease-fire in French Guiana that led to the peace talks. The parliament speaker says he is optimistic about the outcome of the talks.

Talks Begin With Rebels

FL1807152889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Talks are underway between the Surinamese Government and the country's rebel movement in French Guiana. The negotiations are expected to last 3 days. The meeting was set up by a Surinamese parliamentary delegation and a rebel team. The size of the official government delegation to the latest talks was increased at the last moment.

One member, Milton Belgrave, stayed behind in the capital because he questioned what he called the big party delegation. He also had reservations about preparations for the talks.

The two sides hope to bring about the return of several thousand refugees from French Guiana.